

De Michelis arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis arrived in Israel Wednesday to discuss Europe's role in a proposed Middle East peace conference. He will also discuss the integration of the occupied territories into the European Community when the group of nations becomes a single market in 1992, foreign ministry officials said. Mr. De Michelis was greeted by his Israeli counterpart, David Levy, at the Ben Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv, but neither spoke to reporters. Mr. De Michelis was to meet with President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition Labour Party, during his two-day visit. The Italian visitor will also meet with Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. De Michelis has visited Israel in the past as a member of the so-called "troika," which is made up of the past, present and future heads of the European Community (EC). The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to sponsor a regional peace conference, tentatively scheduled for October. European nations have sought a role in the talks. Israel has agreed that the EC can send an observer.

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S. Arabia lifts ban on transit for Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia has eased travel restrictions on Jordanians in effect since the Gulf crisis, according to an announcement by the Saudi embassy.

Saudi Arabia, in retaliation for Jordan's stand during the conflict, prevented Jordanians working in Gulf states from crossing its territory by land.

Jordanians will be able to travel in transit through Saudi territory to other Arab Gulf states and Yemen, the Jordan News Agency quoted a Saudi embassy statement as saying.

The announcement said the Saudi government has allowed Jordanians working in the Gulf states and Yemen to get transit visas from the embassy here.

The decision included those whose applications for visas were turned down by the embassy, the announcement added.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensur welcomed the decision and described it as a positive step. He expressed thanks for the Saudi government for responding positively to the Jordanian government's request in this regard.

Dr. Ensur voiced hope that relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia will improve "for the best of the two brotherly peoples and the Arab Nation and its interests."

Around 4,000 Jordanians had to leave their cars and other belongings in Amman and fly back, Dr. Ensur said.

"The Saudi embassy will issue transit visas for Jordanians to allow them to go back to their jobs by land," Dr. Ensur told Reuters.

"We welcome this initiative as a step in the right direction."

The Saudi embassy confirmed the new rules and Arab diplomats said they believed the decision would help ease the strain relations between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia, which withdrew its ambassador to Jordan at the height of the crisis, has not returned him yet although Amman sent its envoy back to Riyadh in October.

Iraqi infants dying of malnutrition

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Wednesday that 76 newborn infants died in a northern Iraqi city last month because of food shortages resulting from economic sanctions. The agency, in a dispatch from Mosul monitored in Nicosia, also said 816 cases of miscarriage were reported in July and August and that these were attributed mainly to "defiant overflights by U.S. warplanes."

Iraq has complained to the United Nations that U.S. and other allied warplanes were penetrating its airspace in low sorties in violation of the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. The INA dispatch quoted Dr. Nada Ramzi Al Omari, a gynaecologist at the Mosul Hospital, as saying she had registered "424 cases of miscarriage caused by the aircraft overflights and the economic blockade in the past two months."

Dr. Omari said 37 newborn babies died in the hospital in July due to the malnutrition of mothers during pregnancies.

Iraq says it has caught currency forgers

BAGHDAD (R) — Finance Minister Majid Abed Ja'afar said Wednesday Iraqi security forces had arrested some members of a gang forging the country's currency. In a statement, he added that the rest of the gang members would be rounded up imminently. He gave no numbers or any details. Mr. Ja'afar said the fakes had had little effect on the economy because they were poor imitations and only a limited number had been produced. Last month, Iraq accused its neighbours of flooding the country with forged Iraqi banknotes. The government issued lists of numbers of counterfeit 25, 50 and 100 dinar banknotes.

Gorbachev pushes bid to shift power to republics

Decree to approve Baltic independence

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet parliament gave preliminary approval Wednesday to a sweeping plan to transfer most Kremlin power to the republics and transform the Soviet Union into a loose confederation of sovereign states.

But Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had to coax and prod the reluctant Congress of People's Deputies into giving the preliminary approval by a vote of 1,126-289.

The deputies, fearing the proposals would eliminate their jobs, passed the measure only "as a

hasie for discussion," which means that amendments to the resolution can still be made.

Mr. Gorbachev failed to win a subsequent vote to accept for discussion a draft law on the measures. That motion received a simple majority, 1,200-275, but failed to win the two-thirds approval from the 2,250-member body that apparently was necessary.

A disappointed Gorbachev did not announce before the vote was taken that a two-thirds majority was necessary, nor after the vote that it had failed.

An electronic tally board flashed the words, "Motion not adopted."

But an insistent Gorbachev, unwilling to concede defeat, tried to persuade the lawmakers that a two-thirds margin was not necessary.

"We are not adopting the law. We are only adopting it as a basis for discussion," he said. But a chorus of shouts erupted from the floor.

"All right, all right," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"The law is still up in the air."

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir justifies terrorist past

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, recalling his days as a guerrilla commander, said Wednesday that Jews were justified in using terrorism to win statehood, but that Palestinians are not.

"Personal terrorism is a way of fighting that is acceptable under certain conditions and by certain movements," said Mr. Shamir.

The Jews, stateless and persecuted, had no choice, he asserted, but the Palestinians are "fighting for land that is not theirs. This is the land of the people of Israel," he contended.

Mr. Shamir was interviewed by army radio on the 50th anniversary of the founding of Lehi, the underground terror group to which Mr. Shamir fought British rule in Palestine in the 1940s.

Lehi, also known as the Stern gang after its founder assassinated Lord Moyne, the British

minister-resident in Cairo, in 1944. It also was blamed for the 1948 murder of U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden, although his killers were never caught.

In the interview, Mr. Shamir dropped his customary reticence about the past and defended Lehi's actions at some length.

"Under the conditions that existed then, when the Jewish people were without a voice, without a homeland, without military force, vulnerable, totally abandoned by the whole world, there was justification and also usefulness in using this extreme method, to hurt those people who were responsible for what was being done to the Jewish people," Mr. Shamir said.

Asked to compare Lehi with Palestinian guerrilla groups fighting for independence, Mr. Shamir said: "Their objective is not just. They are fighting for land

that is not theirs. This is the land of the people of Israel."

Mr. Shamir suggested Palestinians have no right to a homeland. "There are many Arab countries in the Middle East, there is enormous territory that every Arab can live in as his own," he said.

Mr. Shamir also claimed the methods of Lehi and Palestinian guerrilla groups were different.

"We never fought against unarmed civilians. We fought against oppressors, against occupiers, while the main targets of the Palestinian terror groups are civilians, old people, women, children," he said.

Israeli historian Benny Morris confirmed that Lehi mainly targeted British officials, but said not all of them were armed. He also said the group robbed banks and extorted money from Jewish business people to finance its activities.

PNC delayed again

TUNIS (Agencies) — A meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) to decide whether to attend a Middle East peace conference has been postponed for a third time because of disputes among factions, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) source said Wednesday.

The PNC meeting will adopt the Palestinian position on the ceasefire proposed by Washington and Moscow for October.

The meeting of 450 leaders was originally planned in Algiers for mid-September and then for Sept. 20. The PLO source said it had now been put off to Sept. 23.

He said talks with groups based in Damascus and with the fundamentalist movement Hamas to try to persuade them to attend the PNC session had made no progress.

"Discussions with the dissi-

dents based in Damascus are at a dead end while those with Hamas are continuing," he said.

A meeting to discuss the PNC session was to have been held Sunday in Yemen between the PLO and the dissident Palestinian National Salvation Front but failed to take place.

Sources in Tunis told Reuters the PLO had rejected a front demand that one of the dissident groups in Damascus led by Abu Musa should take part under the umbrella of Fateh, the mainstream PLO group.

A hardline PLO group said Tuesday that it would refuse to attend the peace conference.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said such a conference would mean "the liquidation of the Palestinian question," according to a com-

(Continued on page 5)

U.N.: Iraq needs \$2.4b in oil sales to buy food

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is expected to suggest this week that Iraq be allowed to sell up to \$2.4 billion worth of oil in the next six months, sources at the U.N. said Tuesday.

But his key report on oil sales is not expected to dispute openly the \$1.6 billion ceiling put on Iraqi petroleum exports by the Security Council in an Aug. 15 resolution.

Instead he will probably recommend that the council review Iraq's needs in the next few months, the sources said. Money from the oil sales will go to cover emergency humanitarian needs and other costs.

"We are pretty certain the final version will end up not directly challenging the ceiling but point to the latest, higher U.N. humanitarian estimates and refer to the review mechanisms," said one source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report is expected to go to the Security Council on Thursday. No Iraqi oil can flow until the 15-member body approves the document, expected next week at the earliest.

An early draft of the report estimates that Iraq's food, health and sanitation needs in the next six months are \$1.73 billion, the sources said.

Iraq also has to pay 30 per cent of its oil revenues into a fund to compensate victims of the Gulf war as well as cover U.N. costs for scrapping its weapons of mass destruction.

Consequently, the draft report suggests Iraq be permitted to sell \$2.4 billion worth of oil to cover its own needs and pay into the compensation funds, the sources said.

The draft also recommends that Turkey should be granted its request of \$264 million to get the pipeline from Iraq in use again. It is expected Ankara will be paid in oil.

Iraq has rejected the resolution, which directs all proceeds from oil sales go into a U.N. escrow account.

The council last month voted to let Iraq sell oil to import food and humanitarian supplies, pay Gulf war reparations and meet other debts arising from its invasion of Kuwait last year.

The secretary-general's report was mandated by the council to ensure that food and medicine bought with Iraqi oil money reaches needy civilians and that none is siphoned off by the Baghdad government.

Gaza University to reopen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli defence ministry announced Wednesday that the Islamic University in the Occupied Gaza Strip will be allowed to reopen for the first time since the start of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories 44 months ago.

It was the fifth Palestinian university given permission to operate. Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank remains shut down.

Israel closed the six universities shortly after the start of the Palestinian Uprising against Israeli occupation in December 1987. The army contended they were centres of anti-Israel activities.

The United States and international human rights groups have repeatedly called for reopening the schools, saying that their closure constitutes collective punishment.

The Islamic University had an enrollment of 5,000 students when it was closed.

"The opening of the university is part of the defence policy to allow a gradual return to normal of the educational system in (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip," a defence ministry statement said.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens met with directors of the university Wednesday to inform them of the decision, Palestinians said.

Sheikh Mohammad Awad, the chairman of the university's board of trustees, called Mr. Arens' decision "a goodwill gesture."

Lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme said the reopening of the university was "a fair and just procedure."

A Palestinian communist leader was questioned by police Tuesday for alleged incitement against Israel.

Ghassan Khatib, who has spent seven months in prison for anti-Israeli activities during the uprising, was the third Palestinian leader to be questioned by police in the past eight days.

On Aug. 26, Israeli police questioned Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi on charges they had contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Israeli army newspaper Al Qadisiyah, which does not normally publish Wednesday, printed a special edition.

In a front-page editorial, it said the people of Iraq wanted "peace and security in order for the black cloud that is hanging over the countries of the region to be lifted."



PARLIAMENT WINDS UP YEAR'S BUSINESS: Small groups of deputies held consultations Wednesday in the chamber as the

Parliament ends extraordinary session

By Tareq Al Momani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday held its last meeting of the extraordinary session which started July 8, 1991. The meeting was chaired by Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Suhaimat and ministers.

The regular session of Parliament opens in October. In the interim, the focus of discussions among the various blocs and groupings in the Lower House is expected to be speakership of the

House in the regular session.

In the extraordinary session the House discussed and approved 13 draft and temporary laws out of a total of 90 topics listed on its agenda for the session.

In its meeting on Wednesday the House approved temporary laws related to supplies.

The two laws define the role of the Ministry of Supply in implementing the Kingdom's supply policy and in securing its needs and reserves of basic food supplies.

The laws also restrict importing basic food supplies to the ministry and stipulates setting up a committee whose task will be defining

limits for net profits and prices for commodities wherever prices are not defined by the ministry.

The supply laws also state that price and quality inspectors at the ministry should pay inspection visits to stores and shops to check the adherence of merchants to the laws.

They also state that factories should have prices clearly written on each item of their products besides writing the expiry date on each item.

The laws also give the minister the right to ask factories to supply him with a list of their stores, their locations, contents and the

expiry date of the materials stored in them.

According to the two laws a committee for destroying food unfit for human consumption and a council to be named the council of supply will be formed. The council will be chaired by the minister.

The council's tasks will be proposing the Kingdom's supply policies and defining prices for basic food supplies and other issues referred to it by the minister.

The laws also define the punitive measures that should be taken against those who violate the law.

Lower House of Parliament ended an extraordinary session (photos by Youssef Al 'Arian)

Kuwaiti cabinet okays pact with U.S.

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — The government Wednesday endorsed a defence agreement with the United States that would allow the Americans to use Kuwaiti military installations and to pre-position military equipment in the emirate.

Kuwait's official news agency, KUNA, said the announcement came after an extraordinary cabinet meeting headed by Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, the crown prince.

The Pentagon announced last week that the U.S. administration was seeking such an agreement with Kuwait.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said he expected that agreement to be completed soon and stressed that the United States did not intend to keep permanent bases in Kuwait.

The agency quoted the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dhari Al Othman, as saying that the agreement would cover the use of Kuwaiti facilities.

Mr. Othman said the 10-year agreement aimed at "achieving close cooperation between the two countries to boost the military capabilities of the Kuwaiti armed forces through programmes and training."

UNRWA confident problem of Gazans in Kuwait will be resolved

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior United Nations official expressed confidence Wednesday that a solution will be found by mid-November for the problem of the thousands of Gazans holding Egyptian documents facing expulsion from Kuwait.

Although the official did not reveal any details, it was believed that he had secured an Egyptian promise that the Cairo government would exert its influence with the Kuwaiti government not to expel the Gazans, who are not accepted by any country, including Egypt, whose travel documents they carry.

U.N. spokesman, commission general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) also told a press conference that he was issuing an appeal to donor countries for assistance to help Jordan cope with the massive influx of returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

On the stranded Gazans, Mr. Turkmen said, "we know that they have nowhere to go...we are going to find a solution to this problem by Nov. 15."

Mr. Turkmen, who held three days of talks in Jordan, said most of the Palestinian expatriates who left Kuwait in the wake of the Iraqi invasion in August last year and following the liberation of Kuwait earlier this year possessed entry permits to the occupied territories.

"We have not had any significant number of Gazans who have left Kuwait and have been stranded in Arab countries," he said.

The problem of Gazans is multi-fold: They have to leave Kuwait in line with a de facto expulsion policy adopted by post-war Kuwait, but they do not have entry permits to Gaza issued by the Israeli occupation authorities. Egypt refuses to allow entry to Gazans except those who carry Israeli permits.

Mr. Turkmen, who held talks with Egyptian officials before arriving here Monday, told the press conference that although "there was no specific conclusion... the Egyptian government was very forthcoming."

(Continued on page 5)

A senior Jordanian official was quoted as saying Tuesday that the Egyptian government was expected to press Kuwait to allow the estimated 23,000 Gazans to remain in the emirate. It was not immediately known whether Cairo had initiated contacts with Kuwait, but the validity of the documents carried by the Gazans in Kuwait runs out on Nov. 15.

His Majesty King Hussein has expressed concern that Gazans expelled from Kuwait who lack the proper documents to enter the occupied Gaza-strip might have nowhere to go except Jordan.

Other officials have said the Kingdom was willing to help the Gazans to enter the occupied territories through Jordan if a mechanism could be worked out, including Israeli consent to receive them across the River Jordan.

Mr. Turkmen said possible UNRWA assistance to Jordan to help it cope with the needs of the 300,000 expatriates who have returned from Kuwait and Iraq was discussed during his talks in Amman. He said there were increased demands

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Scientists say Gulf ecological damage more on global than on regional level

BAHRAIN (AP) — Gulf scientists Tuesday said that ecological damage from the Gulf war will cause less damage to the region than global warming and the so-called greenhouse gases.

Twelve experts from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, part of a task force set up by the U.N. environment programme and the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment, expressed concern over global warming's effect on Gulf waters.

Walter J. Vreeland, an adviser to the Bahrain-based Environmental Protection Committee, said fires in Kuwaiti oil fields torched during the Gulf war are expected to do less damage to the global climate.

"We realise the oil fires are going to go away... the actual carbon monoxide generated by the oil fires is 2 per cent of the global carbon monoxide," he said. "It is not significant."

Kuwait has extinguished about half the number of the blazing oil wells and already the skies of Bahrain are slightly brighter than earlier in the year.

Al Sayed Mohammad, a Qatari scientist and coordinator of the team, said the world consumes, or burns, more than 30 million barrels of oil daily while fires in the Kuwaiti oil fields burn only three million barrels.

"The three million barrels is nothing compared to the 30 million barrels," Mr. Mohammad said. He said carbon monoxide is expected to raise world temperature by one to four degrees Celsius by the year 2030. Carbon monoxide is an inevitable product of the burning of fossil fuels.

As a result, Mr. Mohammad said, the sea level will increase by 30 centimetres to 70 centimetres by the end of next century.

Mr. Vreeland said: "This area will be affected, but how much is really open for discussion."

In the Gulf, global warming could mean water shortages and parching of the earth in a region that is mainly desert. The region is a major oil producing centre, alone sitting on two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves.

Makram Gerges, senior programme officer with the U.N. Environmental Programme, said rapid development in the Gulf

financed by the region's oil riches must not be at the expense of the environment.

Mr. Gerges said pollution will increase in the Gulf if it is not controlled by its states.

Those represented in the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment are Iraq, Iran and the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. No officials from Iraq and Iran were at the conference.

The scientists were expected to submit their recommendations to the environment to the regional governments at the end of their four-day meeting Wednesday.

Oil spill
In London, the environmental group Greenpeace said Wednesday large stretches of Saudi Arabia's coastline had been damaged almost beyond repair by oil spilled during the Gulf crisis and too little was being done to clean it up.

Greenpeace activist Paul Horsman, who coordinated a three-week expedition to Saudi Arabia, said only a massive international effort would save wildlife in the area and restore the coastline's fragile ecosystem.

"Marine life is still dying," Mr. Horsman said in a statement. "Each time a bird dives for food it becomes coated in oil and birds trying to find food on the beaches must be continually ingesting oil."

He said some of the longer term effects of the disaster were becoming apparent only now, six months after the end of the Gulf war, and unless the oil is cleaned up it will continue to wreak environmental havoc.

Greenpeace reported last month that the international effort to clean up the Gulf was winding down despite hundreds of kilometres of beaches still fouled by oil.

He said the Greenpeace expedition to Saudi Arabia, part of a two-month Gulf-wide scientific programme, encountered only one clean-up effort — a group of about 50 workers clearing a small section of beach using shovels and barrows.

"The oil they collected was being dumped on the sand dunes," Mr. Horsman said.

They recruit children to fight, rape, torch villages and summarily execute captured soldiers," said one expert who closely watches human rights in Sudan.

"Their actions are directed almost exclusively at non-Dinkas," he added. "The army's record is not any better."

Colonel Garang was the target of the mutiny by three top commanders — Riek Machar Teny-Dbaron, Lam Akol and Gordon Koang Chol — who sharply criticised his policies and leadership style.

The SPLA said Col. Garang was chairing a meeting of the SPLA leadership at the rebel-held southern town of Kapoeta when the mutiny happened. The town, according to diplomats, came under government aerial bombing following the SPLA statement.

They had no reports of casualties or damage. The mutiny occurred with Col. Garang still feeling the effects of last May's overthrow of Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile-Mariam, whose logistical and moral support for the SPLA had been crucial.

The fall of Col. Mengistu also robbed him of what had arguably been his best weapon — an Ethiopia-based radio station which was eagerly heard by Sudanese across most of the country. Khartoum's ruling junta made no secret of its satisfaction over the abortive mutiny, saying it would speed an end to the civil war. But opposition politician Al Toum Mohammad Al Toum said he could not rule out a junta band in the rebellion.

Details of the mutiny have been scanty, but a statement attributed to its instigators

7 killed as Turkish troops search for kidnap victims

ANKARA (AP) — Clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish rebels have killed at least seven people, as a wide-scale military operation continued in eastern Turkey to locate five — abducted Westerners, officials said late Tuesday.

Three Americans, a Briton and an Australian were abducted Friday night from their vehicles by Kurdish rebels in Bingol province. They were on an expedition seeking the site of Noah's Ark, which the Bible says landed on Mount Ararat in present-day eastern Turkey after the great flood.

A Turkish driver told police that the kidnappers identified themselves as guerrillas belonging to the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK).

Turkish officials have maintained a strict silence about the search, which involves about 2,500 soldiers and police and covers several provinces.

But a senior government official in the provincial centre of Diyarbakir told the Associated Press that the security forces had so far not made any contact with the kidnappers.

He said no American or other Western troops or experts were assisting in the search.

About 2,500 Western troops are based at Silopi on the Iraqi border to protect Iraqi Kurds after their failed March rebellion. Last month, a PKK guerrilla commander expressed the group's displeasure with what he described as a U.S. plot to stifle Kurdish independence.

The Turkish official in Diyarbakir, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he did not know why the PKK has not officially

claimed responsibility for the abduction. The PKK did so when it kidnapped 10 German tourists a month ago. The Germans were released unharmed eight days later.

The release of the Germans has kept hopes up for the eventual safe return of the five new hostages.

An American embassy official in Ankara said there had been no attempt by the PKK to contact U.S. officials regarding the missing Westerners.

Meanwhile, as the search continued, there was a reported increase in rebel ambushes.

On Monday night, two non-commissioned-officers were killed in a guerrilla ambush, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Tuesday.

Also Monday, in adjoining Mus province, the guerrillas de-

railed an express train and ambushed troops arriving on the scene, the news agency said.

A soldier, a policeman and two guerrillas were killed, it said. Four policemen and a machinist were injured.

Turkish authorities in Diyarbakir announced Tuesday that another rebel had been killed in Siirt province.

The missing Westerners have been identified as Americans Ronald Wyant, Marvin Wilson and Richard M. Rives, Briton Gareth Thomas, and Australian Allen Roberts.

The PKK has been fighting since 1984 for an independent Marxist state in southeastern Turkey, home to about half of the country's 12-million-strong Kurdish minority. Over 3,000 rebels, soldiers and civilians have died in the fighting.

Participating in the conference were leprosy specialists from 18 countries. Dr. Turkan Saylan, head of the leprosy hospital of Istanbul, said there were 4,000 lepers in Turkey. Leprosy is a progressive infectious disease caused by a bacterium that attacks the skin, flesh and nerves, characterised by nodules, ulcers and deformities. It is apparently communicated only after long and close contact.

Mossad helps safeguard Israeli flights
PRAGUE (R) — A security detail from Israel's Mossad intelligence agency has been deployed at Prague airport to help Czechoslovakia safeguard flights of the Israeli airline El Al, a newspaper said Wednesday.

"The Mossad security team is here under an agreement between the federal interior ministry and the Israeli secret service," the independent daily Rude Pravo quoted the ministry's spokesman Martin Fendrych as saying. Last Friday, a group of about 125 Soviet Jews flew on a chartered plane from Prague to Israel, the first time Czechoslovakia has been used as a transit point for such exodus flights.

Czechoslovakia and Israel are discussing the possibility of regular flights for Soviet Jews via Prague or Kosice in eastern Slovakia. Other transfer points for Jewish immigrants include Bucharest, Budapest and Helsinki. More than 113,000 Jews have left the Soviet Union this year. Last year, 187,000 emigrated.

Algeria proposes new electoral law
ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian government has proposed major changes in the electoral law to try to win over political parties, women and independents who severely criticised the previous legislation.

Protests led by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) against the law degenerated into street violence in June in which at least 55 people were killed. President Chadli Benjedid postponed the first multi-party parliamentary elections, called in the army, sacked the government and proclaimed a state of siege. FIS leaders were later arrested. Opposition parties said the old law favoured candidates of the National Liberation Front (FLN) which had ruled Algeria since independence from France in 1962.

Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali's caretaker government is to hold polls before the end of the year. The draft of the new law obtained by Reuters Wednesday reduces the size of the National Assembly from 542 to 370 seats. It stipulates that women must give their husbands written permission to vote in their place and only one proxy vote will be allowed.

Muslim fundamentalist parties like the FIS and traditionalist groups had proposed that male voters could make several proxy votes each for women in their households.

Hasita Zimrin, chairwoman of the Israeli Children's Defence League, said Zohar Paz's tragedy also pointed up a tendency by kibbutz groups in Israel to cover up family violence.

At kibbutz Shoval in southern Israel, where Zohar Paz lived, officials insisted they concealed nothing from the authorities. They also denied allegations that the boy was known to be battered at home before the slaying.

Police said that Zohar, whose body was found Sunday morning with "signs of violence," was clearly beaten to death.

They have arrested the 53-year-old boyfriend of Zohar's kibbutz mother and his 17-year-old son, southern district spokesman Shalom Ben-Hemo said. The man and his son live in the nearby city of Beersheba.

Mr. Ben-Hemo said that Zohar, who suffered from epilepsy and impaired motor development, was found in a tub inside a shack about 11 hours after kibbutz officials reported him missing.

The boy apparently left his home sometime Saturday afternoon, Mr. Ben-Hemo said. A photograph of wide-eyed,

S. Arabia sends captured Iraqi tanks to Pakistan

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has sent four shipments of Iraqi tanks captured in the Gulf war to Pakistan but they are badly damaged and "heaps of junk," shipping sources said Wednesday.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said freighters began collecting mangled Soviet-made T-55 and T-62 tanks, all captured in Kuwait, in the Saudi port of Dammam two months ago.

The fourth shipment arrived in Karachi on Aug. 27 and there was a possibility of more being delivered, they said.

But they said it was hard to imagine what Pakistan, which looks to Saudi Arabia as its main source of aid, would do with the mangled equipment.

"We understand there have been four shipments of mainly T-55 and T-62 tanks, but as far as we're concerned they are just a heap of junk — scrap metal," one source said.

"Some of them were without their guns, some had no turrets or tracks and none was mobile," he added. "But they (the Pakistanis) may be able to cannibalise some of them. It's our understanding they were all captured in Kuwait," he added.

A Pakistani Defence Ministry spokesman denied any tanks had arrived but dock workers in Karachi said they had seen them unloaded day and night behind tarpaulin screens. They were moved from the port area at night.

"Yes, we have seen big tanks with long barrels," one dock worker said. In Rotterdam, shipping managers Kahn Schkepsvaart confirmed the 7,168-tonne Dutch-registered freighter Fairlink carried a cargo of tanks to Karachi a few days ago but would not say how many or what type.

A Kahn official said: "The only thing I can say is that it brought a number of tanks to Karachi from

Saudi Arabia in August."

Saudi officials were not available for comment and the shipping sources gave no details about the other shipments or how many tanks were involved.

In Delhi, the Indian Express newspaper said the tanks were among 300 captured Iraqi T-72s — Baghdad's top of the line model in the war — and T-62s given to Pakistan by Saudi Arabia.

Iraq had some 5,500 main battle tanks at the start of the Gulf crisis, including 1,000 T-62s and an estimated 500 T-72s, main firepower of the Republican Guard.

Gulf-based sources declined to say whether Saudi Arabia had sold or given the damaged tanks to Pakistan as a reward for sending troops to support the U.S.-led coalition which fought Iraq.

Any equipment captured by the United States and supplied to Pakistan could violate a U.S. ban on arms deliveries imposed last October because of concerns about Islamabad's nuclear weapons programme.

One Gulf shipping source said: "Initially, we all thought this was a very sensitive matter but when we saw how badly the tanks were damaged we just laughed — they're just junk."

A spokesman for the Rotterdam-based shippers said: "They were Russian-made tanks and equipment related to what you might term personnel carriers."

"Less than five tanks were in complete form, the rest were in scrap," he added.

Western diplomats said some war booty had been sent from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to Pakistan but it was destined for Afghan guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Child murder case dovetails with spread of child abuse in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — The battered corpse of an 11-year-old boy found by a haystack is stirring a broad debate about how Israel, and its kibbutz collective farms in particular, deals with child abuse.

Children's rights advocates said Tuesday the case is alarming because it dovetails with increasing reports of child beatings, which they estimate at about 30,000 a year.

Hasita Zimrin, chairwoman of the Israeli Children's Defence League, said Zohar Paz's tragedy also pointed up a tendency by kibbutz groups in Israel to cover up family violence.

At kibbutz Shoval in southern Israel, where Zohar Paz lived, officials insisted they concealed nothing from the authorities. They also denied allegations that the boy was known to be battered at home before the slaying.

Police said that Zohar, whose body was found Sunday morning with "signs of violence," was clearly beaten to death.

They have arrested the 53-year-old boyfriend of Zohar's kibbutz mother and his 17-year-old son, southern district spokesman Shalom Ben-Hemo said. The man and his son live in the nearby city of Beersheba.

Mr. Ben-Hemo said that Zohar, who suffered from epilepsy and impaired motor development, was found in a tub inside a shack about 11 hours after kibbutz officials reported him missing.

The boy apparently left his home sometime Saturday afternoon, Mr. Ben-Hemo said. A photograph of wide-eyed,

dark-haired Zohar stared out of every Israeli newspaper Tuesday and legislators and children's rights advocates questioned whether laws about child abuse were being enforced.

A far-reaching law requires Israelis to report any suspicion of child abuse. Offenders can be jailed for three months — six months in the case of social workers, Mrs. Zimrin said.

But she knew of no case where offenders were punished. Legislators demanded a probe into why police never received complaints that Paz was being battered.

Kibbutz officials were defensive. The case, believed the first of its kind on a collective farm, defies the pristine image of the kibbutz as a sanctuary of the communal ideal.

"This is a most unusual case. By our whole approach, child abuse just goes against the grain. But I guess exceptions can happen anywhere," said Shlomo Flaver, a senior kibbutz movement official. About three per cent of Israel's 4.7 million people live on kibbutzim.

Mr. Shoval's secretary, Gadi Romen, denied Paz was a battered child, saying he based this on the accounts of teachers and social workers who handled the boy.

Mr. Romen said the boy's mother underwent a strain after his father died in an auto accident seven years ago. He said social workers from outside the kibbutz were informed of the family's problems and were dealing with it.

Troubles of Sudanese rebel leader said far from over

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

NICOSIA — The failure of last week's mutiny against Sudanese rebel chief John Garang left the U.S.-educated Dinka tribesman unscathed and firmly in control but, diplomats and Sudan experts said, his troubles are far from over.

They said his tolerance of alleged atrocities against civilians by the mostly Dinka men of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) was fomenting dissent against the ex-army colonel from non-Dinka commanders.

The complex tribal makeup of the 40,000-strong force, fighting government troops in south Sudan since 1983, and secessionist sentiments within the SPLA were other issues he must handle delicately to stay at the helm.

"They enslave civilians, they recruit children to fight, rape, torch villages and summarily execute captured soldiers," said one expert who closely watches human rights in Sudan.

"Their actions are directed almost exclusively at non-Dinkas," he added. "The army's record is not any better."

Colonel Garang was the target of the mutiny by three top commanders — Riek Machar Teny-Dbaron, Lam Akol and Gordon Koang Chol — who sharply criticised his policies and leadership style.

The SPLA said Col. Garang was chairing a meeting of the SPLA leadership at the rebel-held southern town of Kapoeta when the mutiny happened. The town, according to diplomats, came under government aerial bombing following the SPLA statement.

They had no reports of casualties or damage. The mutiny occurred with Col. Garang still feeling the effects of last May's overthrow of Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile-Mariam, whose logistical and moral support for the SPLA had been crucial.

The fall of Col. Mengistu also robbed him of what had arguably been his best weapon — an Ethiopia-based radio station which was eagerly heard by Sudanese across most of the country.

Khartoum's ruling junta made no secret of its satisfaction over the abortive mutiny, saying it would speed an end to the civil war. But opposition politician Al Toum Mohammad Al Toum said he could not rule out a junta band in the rebellion.

Details of the mutiny have been scanty, but a statement attributed to its instigators

spoke of the need for the south to secede.

"There is a faction in Khartoum which wants the south to go so it can do whatever it likes with the north," Mr. Toum, a former information minister, said from his exile home in Cairo.

The diplomats and experts said the mutiny has lent credence to the popular theory that the longer the civil war continued — it is now in its ninth year — the more the secession of the south became a viable solution.

About 500,000 people have died and about three million have been turned into refugees as a result of the conflict.

Most of the dead are civilian southerners who succumbed to hunger and disease. The war has also crippled the economy and stirred dormant ethnic and religious

rifts.

"Garang cannot go on saying he wants to liberate the whole of Sudan for much longer," said another Sudan expert.

The longer the war goes on, the more convincing the views of the secessionists in the SPLA will be, he said, noting that there was no likelihood of a peaceful settlement to a war that costs Khartoum \$1 million every day.

Proposed peace talks between the SPLA and Khartoum's ruling junta, the diplomats and experts said, were unlikely to produce results due to the large gap in the positions of the two sides.

No date has been set for the Nigerian-sponsored talks. The SPLA says it wants to create a new and a secular Sudan and not, as Anya-Nya rebels wanted during the 1955-72 bush war they waged

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Society
18:30 Les Chevaliers de Clod
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Family Man
21:10 Outlaws
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week

PRAYER TIMES

06:08 Fajr
06:08 (Summer) Dhuhr
12:34 Dhuhr
16:09 'Asr
19:01 Maghrib
20:28 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627265
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 611757
Terrence Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

625411. Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Stephen Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 827881; 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be light and variable, changing to northeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

MIN./MAX. TEMP.

Amman 18 / 33
Aqaba 24 / 36
Dizarta 17 / 34
Jordan Valley 24 / 37

YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES

Amman 31, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Joseph Imath 770560
Dr. Khalid Moudi 743500
Dr. Hisham Abu Arqub 891222
Dr. Youssef Al Housni 625478
Fina pharmacy 661912
Perdova pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 670055
Nairoki pharmacy 623672
Al Seltan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 943402
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771212
Highway Police 943402
Traffic Police 996390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewage 669131
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone 669131
Repairs 623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 669100

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642814
Abdel Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahab, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Musah Hospital 667227
The Islamic, Abdell 666127/37
Al-Abil, Abdell 664164
Isaiah, Al-Muhajir 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775112/26
Army, Maris 891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital 622405/50
Aral Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Dr. Khalid Al Jaabari (-)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
18:15 Riyadh (RJ)

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital (09)99990
IBRD:
Princess Sumaya Hospital (02)227555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)22775
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.

Apple 600 / 520
Apricots 700 / 600
Bananas 500 / 450
Bananas (Mekansha) 450 / 400
Beans 450 / 300
Cabbage 150 / 100
Carrots 200 / 150
Cauliflowers 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 200 / 150
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 240 / 180
Garlic 900 / 800
Grapes 700 / 600
Grapefruit 280 / 220
Lemon (green) 220 / 180
Lemon (yellow) 500 / 400
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 400 / 300
Onion 800 / 700
Onion (dry) 220 / 180
Orange 400 / 350
Peas 700 / 600
Pumpkins 500 / 400
Pumpkin (small) 240 / 180

Jordanian, Egyptian officials discuss trade ties

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb Wednesday met with Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusri Mustafa.

Mr. Abul Ragheb, who is representing Jordan at the meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council held in Cairo, discussed with Dr. Mustafa ways of enhancing trade relations between Jordan and Egypt. The two agreed to hold a bilateral meeting to discuss ways of increasing trade exchanges between the two countries.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also met with Egyptian Minister of Foreign Cooperation Moris Makramallah and reviewed with him issues related to the Jordanian-Egyptian Investment and Development Company.

Mr. Abul Ragheb and Dr. Makramallah agreed to hold a meeting for the general council of the company Thursday.

The meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council started in Cairo Wednesday with the participation of Arab ministers of finance and economy.

Secretary General of the Arab League Esmat Abdul Meguid delivered an opening address in which he called for efforts to bring the meetings to a successful end and to implement the resolutions that it will adopt. Dr. Meguid stressed the importance of Arab economic integration and called on participants in the meeting to discuss the issue of investment in the Arab World.

He said that one of the most important challenges facing the Arab Nation in the current decade is the problem of water shortages, which requires full coordination at the highest levels among Arab countries.

Returnees add 200,000 people to list of unemployed, minister says

AMMAN (Petra) — The latest wave of immigration into Jordan represented by the return of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates from Kuwait will further swell the Kingdom's already burgeoning unemployment ranks, according to Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi.

The return of the expatriates has severely exacerbated the unemployment problem, which is the main concern of the government, the minister said in an address at a graduation ceremony of a new batch of 700 trainees from Vocational Training Centres.

Mr. Dughmi, who deputised for Prime Minister Tahir Masri at the graduation ceremony, said that as of the coming week the government will study a working paper submitted by the Labour Ministry on means of handling the unemployment problem through a national project that entails providing training at vocational centres and through granting loans to heads of families seeking jobs.

The working paper deals primarily with the unemployed graduates of universities and community colleges, 5200 of whom are now seeking jobs, the minister said. He said the other job seekers, those with less education, can easily be absorbed by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), which now has 20,000 available jobs.

Training is given by the VTC centres for all returnees and local residents to make them eligible for jobs now taken by non-Jordanian workers, the labour minister said. Mr. Dughmi thanked



Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi (left) congratulates a Vocational Training Centre graduate. (Petra photo)

Atwan called on university and community college graduates to join the training course to ensure employment for themselves. The government is determined to eliminate poverty by providing training to youth who could start a business or do skilled work in the various trades, Dr. Atwan said.

Unemployment, the minister said, is a very serious problem that calls for close cooperation between the private and public sectors for solutions. For its part, the government has established the Employment and Development Fund (EDF), to offer loans to heads of families starting a small business and income-generating projects.

The government has been trying to find jobs for the job seekers in other Arab countries. The minister added that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) now has 52,000 applications, mostly from university graduates who are not qualified to enter the labour market but can get qualification through the training programmes.

VTC Director General Ahmad

Referring to the VTC achievements, Dr. Atwan said that by the end of 1990 the VTC centres had trained nearly 53,000 citizens. He added that plans are under way to expand the present centres at Yajouz, Qweisneh, Ein Al Basha and Al Manara. Dr. Atwan said that new centres will be set up in Marka, Aqaba, Irbid, Tafleeh and Zarqa.

He said that VTC programmes undergo continual change depending on the economic and social developments and the needs of the labour markets. In another development,

the minister made the announcement at a meeting with representatives of community colleges to whom he said that the government was determined to reorganise the Jordanian labour market and end the unemployment problem. As part of that effort, the minister said community colleges should employ Jordanians only.

The minister said he has instructed inspection teams from his ministry to intensify campaigns to various areas, including community colleges, to ensure that they abide by government regulations.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (centre) discusses role of preacher in a meeting at the King Abdullah Mosque. The Crown Prince urged that seminars be held promoting solidarity among Jordanians (Petra photo)

Crown Prince Hassan calls for objective sermons from preachers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday called on mosque preachers and Muslim leaders to be objective in their preaching and to provide worshippers with constructive ideas and correct information.

"We live in a modern age in which we can easily obtain information which can be relayed to the public in facts and figures," said the Regent at a meeting held at the King Abdullah Mosque and attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Raef Jijem and other ministry officials.

The Regent urged the audience to hold seminars that "can open the hearts and minds" and promote the concept of solidarity among members of the Jordanian community.

The Regent urged preachers and scholars to encourage constructive dialogue and said he was pained to hear preachers sometimes expressing ingratitude.

He said: "I did not come to address you on religion because it is not my field of specialisation,

but I would like to underline the need for enhancing the concept of dialogue. We could differ in views sometimes, but that is natural for us as human beings."

Mr. Jijem addressed the meeting outlining the various activities of his ministry with particular attention to plans to develop Islamic schools. The minister said that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs had prepared a television programme about the Holy City of Jerusalem to be presented in October. The 20-part television programme features the city's religious, architectural, legal and other aspects. It also highlights Israel's illegal practices.

The minister said that the ministry had funds that used to draw on contributions from the Gulf states but that the process has now come to an end with the suspension of aid from the Gulf. But, he added, the zakat (alms to the poor) fund continues to operate and offer help to the needy. Mr. Jijem said that the Ministry

of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is currently paying for the education of 174 students in Jordanian universities because they come from needy families.

In a separate meeting with the imams of the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department, the Regent urged dialogue and called for avoiding differences. He said that constructive and objective dialogue are needed to help the country confront the challenges it faces. The Regent underlined the importance of the role of the imams and preachers in clarifying the facts to the public.

The Regent called for constructive and useful dialogue and urged the preachers to help enhance national unity and end differences in the religious concept and in behaviour.

The Regent also underlined the important role played by the Religious Department at the Armed Forces in fostering the sense of national belonging and in boosting morale.

Ministry to implement plan to boost tourism from European countries

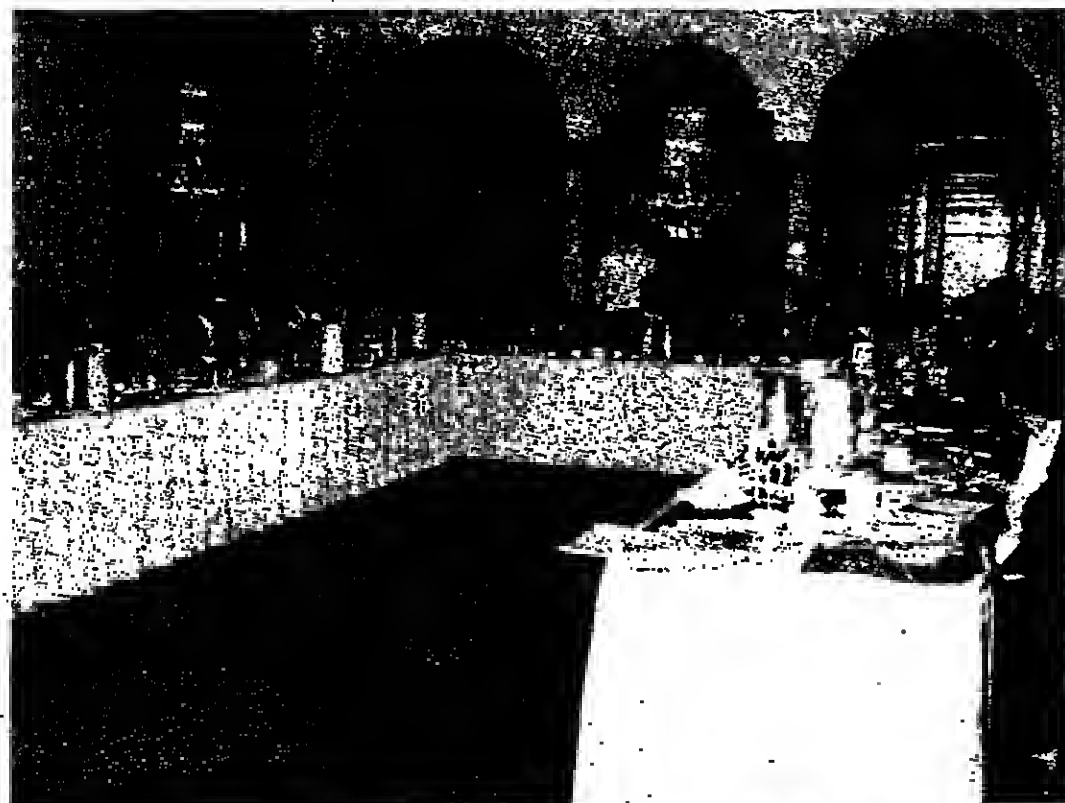
AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism is launching a wide-scale campaign to promote Jordan and is enlisting the assistance of local and foreign tour operators to ensure its success.

Broadlines of the campaign, seen as a major step on the part of the ministry to stimulate the tourism sector, were disclosed at a meeting held Wednesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti and attended by representatives of the tour and travel offices, Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Jordan Express Tourist and Transport Company (JETT), the main tourist bus company in the country.

The campaign will initially be carried out in Germany, Italy and Spain. The first efforts will be made in Italy to market Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites abroad, according to ministry Secretary General Nasir Atallah.

Mr. Atallah told the Jordan Times that the campaign in Germany and Spain was expected to begin in January or February. The aim of the campaign is to ensure that a greater number of tourist groups visit Jordan not only in the winter but the entire year.

The end of this month will witness the arrival in Aqaba of weekly plane-loads of Finnish tourists who will fly directly from Helsinki to the port city aboard RJ planes, Mr. Atallah said. He said that the weekly flights of 180 tourists could be increased to two depending on the volume of tourists in the coming winter season.



Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti chairs a meeting Wednesday discussing ways of promoting tourism. Participants decided to implement a plan highlighting the Kingdom's many historic sites

The process of bringing tourists from Finland and other Scandinavian countries has been going on for the past few years and the visits to the port city normally extend until April, Mr. Atallah said.

Referring to the new campaign planned by the Ministry of Tour-

ism, Mr. Atallah said that the ministry has made plans for workshops to start soon in order to give impetus to the campaign. Representatives of the tourist and press sectors will be involved in the workshops, coupled with intensive campaigns in newspapers, magazines and other media, in

order to ensure the programme's success. Last March, Mr. Atallah estimated Jordan's losses in tourism during the Gulf crisis, tourism in Aqaba was reduced to zero as tourist groups from Scandinavia and other European countries cancelled reservations.

Libya, Tunisia and Ireland will submit working papers and discuss the subject of ensuring food for the Arab World in view of the growing demand the shortages now occurring in most of Arab countries.

The participants will be oriented on modern technology used in the production of food in general and lean meat in particular and research plans in the Arab World in this field will be examined, according to the spokesman.

He said that 13 working papers will be reviewed and several lectures will be delivered, all dealing with the subject of food production and means of increasing food supplies, particularly meat which is in high demand in the Arab World.

Construction of research facility impeded by lack of funds, official says

AMMAN (Petra) — The construction of new premises for the Health Ministry department which produces vaccines for human and animals is being hampered by a lack of funds, although designs and a plot of land for the estimated JD 1.5 million project have been available for some time, according to the department's director, Dr. Mazen Abdul Majid.

The Health Ministry made plans for the project in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and a number of Arab countries and has designated a plot of land in the suburbs of Amman, but construction has not started due to the prevailing poor economic situation in the Kingdom, Dr. Abdul Majid said.

Jordan is one of three Arab states which produces sufficient vaccines for local use alongside Egypt and Tunisia. The vaccines are distributed free of charge to all hospitals and health centres, said Dr. Abdul Majid.

"We produce a variety of vaccines like those used for typhoid, tetanus, cholera, polio, meningitis and rabies among others," he said. "But the department requires better facilities to cope with the growing demand and to produce better quality (vaccines)."

He complained that it takes a long time to buy the basic materials needed for the production of vaccines and the department is in need of certain types of animals to conduct tests on which are not always available.

The department is in need of better and more efficient equipment and materials for its work and the staff requires training courses abroad so that the quality of vaccines can be improved, Dr. Abdul Majid said.

The present building, he said, is not suitable place in terms of design and size as well as safety requirements. It is also located in a densely populated area within the campus of the Al Bashir Government Hospital.

A total of seven units geared to produce the vaccines and conduct research work are cramped into the building along with warehouses where the vaccines are stored, Dr. Abdul Majid said.

He said Jordan would not be able to compete in foreign markets in the sale of vaccines largely due to the high cost of production and the lack of modern facilities which can increase production and improve quality.

Nevertheless, he said, Jordan has been able to provide certain vaccines to Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Italy and hopes to start cooperating in medicine and vaccines exchanges with other Arab countries.

Dr. Abdul Majid said that the vaccines are of paramount importance in the ongoing struggle to protect human life from diseases and in the course of implementing primary health care programmes.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate approves laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament approved Wednesday the amended law of the state security court and the fiscal budget appendix draft law as they were referred to it by the Lower House. The House, which met under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, in the presence of Prime Minister Tahir Masri, recommended that subsidised fuel and food prices benefit citizens with limited income and called for activating the role of the Development and Employment Fund and for exerting more efforts in fighting unemployment. The House later held a closed session with Mr. Masri in which the House members were briefed on the latest developments in the local, Arab and international arenas.

Minister inspects Mafraq schools

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Education Minister Eid Dahiyat Tuesday made an inspection tour of Mafraq Governorate schools and opened a new secondary school in Balaama. The school, which includes 22 classrooms, laboratories, and a sewing centre, cost JD 247,000. The minister met with educational leaders in the governorate and had a discussion on the best means to improve the educational situation in the governorate.

Dutch envoy ends tour of duty

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour Wednesday received the ambassador of the Netherlands to Jordan to bid him farewell on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty. Dr. Ensour lauded the ambassador's services in enhancing relations between Jordan and the Netherlands while serving as his country's non-resident ambassador and presented him with a token gift.

Hospital to be built in Deir Abi Saeed

DEIR ABI SAEED (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture approved leasing 25 dunums of forest lands in Deir Abi Saeed area to Deir Abi Saeed Hospital which will be built in the town by the end of this year. Director of the Health Department in Al Koura district Jamal Al Sharmas said the Ministry of Public Works and Housing is now in charge of the hospital project after reaching an agreement with the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Public Works is expected to conduct needed studies to invite tenders for constructing the hospital which will accommodate 50 beds. The Ministry of Health has previously allocated JD 1,700,000 for constructing the hospital.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Abul Rubb at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Salama Jamil Al Noori at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of naive painting, from Germany at Abdul Hameed Shomani Foundation Gallery.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by Al Jedd Al Jedd folk troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Freedom with harmony

THE DRAFT LAW on press and publication is reaching its final stage in preparation for its final adoption. The Lower House of Parliament has just referred the new law to its Legal Committee to scrutinise its legal formulation. This is the time therefore for the public to express its opinions on it before it is too late.

At the outset, the new body of legislation is a major departure from the 1973 law and is articulated with the new spirit of democracy and parliamentary political life very much in mind. Article 3 incorporates this new sense of freedom and democracy when it stipulated in no uncertain terms that journalism and publication shall be free and freedom of expression shall be guaranteed. This article therefore constitutes the springboard from which all the subsequent provisions of the new legislation have been formulated.

Yet not everything in the new law is clear enough or in conformity with the cardinal principle about freedom of thought and expression. In fact, in some areas in the law there are contradictions. Take for example Article 6 which bestows on journalism the responsibility to enlighten the public on facts, orientations, thoughts and informations on the local, Arab and international levels. Article 9, however, appears to restrict such a broad mission by proscribing the publication of any material that is in conflict with the principles of freedom or national responsibility or human rights, or the respect for truth and the principles and ideals of the Arab and Islamic nations without indicating who will be the judge of these criteria.

One can easily visualise a conflict between these two formulations since new thoughts and perspectives, whether local or regional or international, may not always be in harmony with the sweeping restrictions as outlined in Article 9. From the international perspective as mentioned for example in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which Jordan has signed and ratified, there can be no distinction made between the three monotheistic religions, especially when there is a provision for the protection of religious values. Article 42 purports to remedy this omission when it stipulates that defaming or libelling any religion or sect protected by the Constitution is prohibited. There is obviously a need to harmonise Article 9 with Article 42 on the one hand and the two articles with the provisions of the ICCPR, namely Articles 2, 18, 19, 20, 26, and 27. As much as the U.N. Human Rights Committee keeps on reminding us about Jordan's treaty obligations under that covenant, there is still little or no awareness of these obligations by Jordanian lawmakers.

Another major problem with the new law is the lack of sufficient coherence in its various provisions. Such vagueness in the law's legal formulations plays into the hands of the public prosecutor who has been accorded the responsibility of criminally prosecuting any violation of the law. As is, the guidelines of the new legislation will continue to be subject to many interpretations. Unless and until there is sufficient case law on the new legislation, journalism and publication would continue to be under the mercy of the government.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA' daily Wednesday expressed serious doubts about the prospects of a speedy solution to the Middle East question and said that the United States has other priorities at hand. Washington's involvement in stirring trouble for the Europeans in Yugoslavia and its conspiracies, together with the Western Europeans, against the Soviet Union following the earlier conspiracies on Iraq are keeping the U.S. administration away from the Middle East, the paper noted. It said that the projected visit to the region by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker might not achieve anything in view of the events in other areas of the globe. In view of the situation, the United States and Israel might choose to keep the state of affairs in the Middle East and continue their joint efforts to weaken the Arab World, the paper said. Indeed, the U.S. is busy with plots and plans to dismember the Soviet Union and prevent the 1992 European unity so that it would maintain its hegemony over the world, the paper continued. At the same time, it said, the U.S. maintaining its embargo on Iraq depriving the innocent civilians of their basic food and medicine and the means to exist with the help of a number of Arab regimes in the pay of the Washington master. The paper expressed belief that such a state of affairs can by no means continue for ever, and the time would come when the Arab masses would embark on the process of liberating themselves from their treacherous regimes and from the U.S. — Western hegemony for ever.

A columnist in Al Dastour demanded that the Arab masses in countries that are being visited by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker be informed of the outcome of his talks with the government officials so that a solid stand at the national level be taken. Mazen Al Saket said that each time Mr. Baker visits the Arab countries no details about his talks with officials are offered to the public except vague promises that Washington would commit itself to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The writer said that Parliament members, all government ministers and the members of the public have the right to know the facts and what is being agreed on with regard to the coming peace conference. While Washington claims that it is keen on implementing Security Council resolutions, it continues to supply Israel with weapons and economic aid in addition to millions of dollars to settle the Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab lands, the writer noted. He said that Washington could only act from its stand in the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliances while dealing with the Middle East question and therefore there is no question about the fact that the U.S. administration is taking Israel's side in the ongoing mediation efforts to reach a compromise and start the peace conference. Therefore, he said, one can only wonder about the nature of the coming peace conference between the Arabs and Israel and can only feel apprehensive about the outcome of such a parity.

When leaders refuse to lead

By Safwan Bataineh

WHEN the people first elected their representatives to Parliament in November 1989, they naturally assumed they were picking new leaders who would tackle and overcome the difficult problems of our time. After all, the electorate had taken special care to heap their votes on candidates who stood for change and promised to make a difference and turned away from candidates who possessed little more than an oversized ego and a talent for mingling well. As things turned out, however, it has been a lot easier to bring the horse to water than to make it drink.

The mettle of the new legislature was tested early. Only weeks after the people roundly rejected the traditional political elite, voting into Parliament scores of hitherto obscure politicians, a highly traditional Cabinet presented itself to the legislative assembly for a vote of confidence. Three long days of political posturing, verbal abuse, and petty squawking passed before the assembly finally, and meekly, handed the government a landslide victory. Yet the same Parliament almost brought down the modern looking and youthful Cabinet of Taher Masri, himself a member of Parliament, without so much as bothering to sound convincing.

What could have possibly induced the Parliament to shower support upon a group of discredited veteran politicians shortly

after virulently castigating them on past performance? Even less credible is the Parliament's vehement and inexplicable opposition to a Cabinet composed mainly of high-minded men who were hoisted to public life by voting constituencies; a Cabinet chosen from Parliament's own ranks. One possible explanation is that Parliament suffers collectively from a self-deprecating and low opinion of itself: a syndrome captured most aptly by Groucho Marx's famous assertion that he would not join any club that found it fit to admit him.

Self-confidence is not the only quality of leadership that has gone missing. Others include self-denial, vision, courage, and perseverance.

Since the last election, scores of congressmen were haphazardly rotated in and out of Cabinet posts in an obvious attempt to appease as many parliamentarians as possible. The sense of legislators lining up eagerly to be ushered into the next Cabinet reshuffle like children outside a playground has deeply disturbed the people as they realised that their elected representatives were more interested in the trappings of power than in the integrity of doctrine.

Clearly, the lack of government policies has made it possible for a prime minister to invite legislators of all political persuasions to join the Cabinet and coexist inharmoniously on an aimless

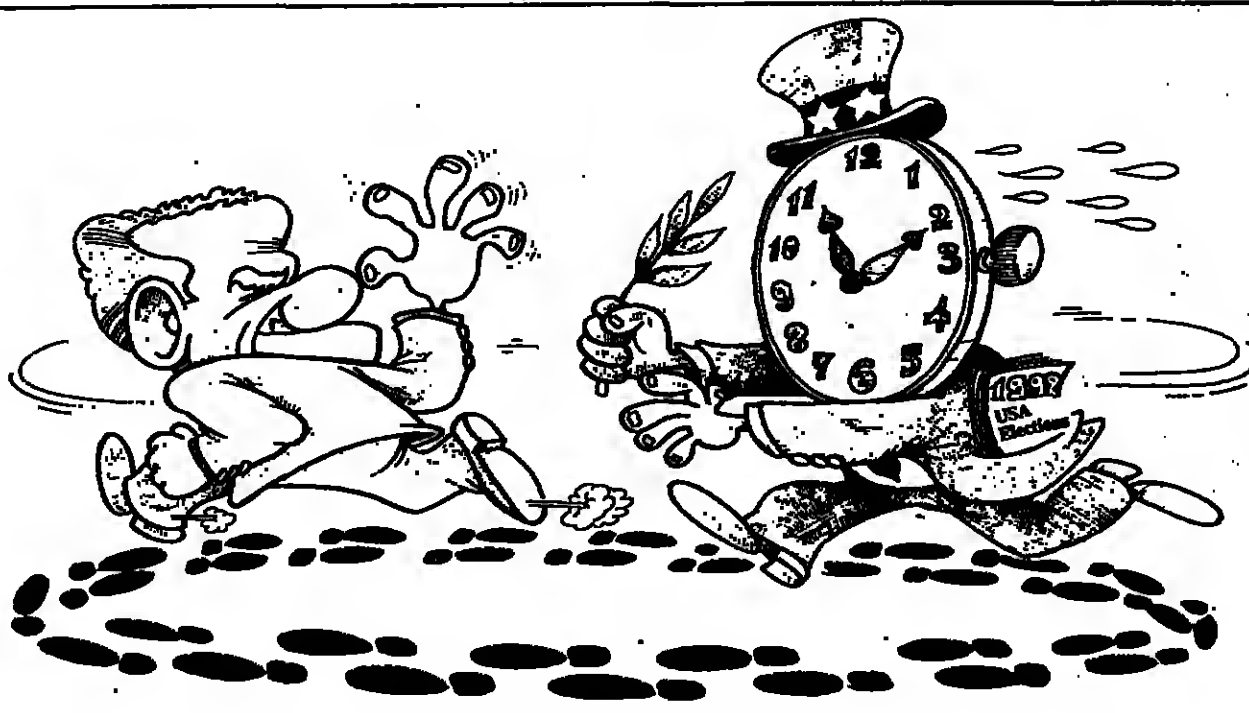
journey. When the cook has no recipe, he tends to get sloppy with the ingredients.

So much for self-denial. As for vision and courage, they were most noticeably absent during the Gulf crisis. Instead of holding a lit candle for the people as they struggled with currents of conflicting emotions and groped for a clear comprehension of cause and consequence, the Parliament merely chose to reflect the lowest impulse of the street: demagoguery.

Finally, one has only to note the meagre output of the Parliament in terms of legislations actually deliberated and promulgated into laws or the shabby attendance habits of many legislators as indicative of a generally slothful attitude.

But the real potential danger of the Parliament's inadequacies lies in the possibility that the constant posturing, insufferable pretensions, and sheer noise distortions of the Parliament might obstruct or otherwise hamper the true leadership of Jordan, the Hashemite monarchy in fulfilling its own special role.

A true leader will never shirk his responsibilities. But in deference to democracy and the presumed will of the people, these responsibilities have always been shared. It is a shame, however, if the responsibility for the nation's welfare is to be shared with leaders who refuse to lead. To them, it must be said: Lead, follow, or get out of the way.



M. KAHIL

N. Korea to survive Soviet shocks with tight controls at home

By Seigo Sakamoto
Reuters

TOKYO — Stalinist North Korea, reeling from the sudden collapse of Soviet communist power, will tighten strict ideological control at home while seeking ways to ease its growing diplomatic isolation, analysts predict.

Pyeongyang-watchers in Tokyo and Seoul said they foresaw a massive domestic propaganda effort to counter the effects of the rapid changes in the birthplace of world communism.

On the international stage, North Korea — after a period of taking stock — could be expected to redouble its efforts to forge new friendships, with Japan first of all, and with other non-communist Asian nations, Japanese analysts said.

Its priorities would be withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea so as to focus, with international help, on rebuilding its crippled economy, said Tetsuo Komaki of Tokyo's Institute of Developing Economies.

What seemed certain in the chaotic aftermath of last week's abortive headline coup that weakened president Mikhail Gorbachev, was that the Moscow-Pyeongyang alliance would never be the same — whoever holds real power in the Soviet capital.

The relationship has been sliding since the late 1980s when Mr. Gorbachev's policies brought glasnost, or openness, to Soviet life, and freedom to East Europe's subject peoples.

It was Moscow's contacts with hated South Korea that really galloped North Korean "great leader" Kim Il-Sung.

The Koreans have been arch-enemies since the peninsula's division at the end of World War II. In the 1950-53 Korean War, Moscow sent the north massive aid, which has continued.

Mr. Gorbachev, after years of growing trade links, opened diplomatic ties with Seoul in September, 1990.

Nevertheless, he kept up economic aid all-important military assistance to isolated hardline Pyongyang.

Pyeongyang-watchers said ties could deteriorate radically if Russian reformist leader Boris Yeltsin or his allies took overall control of Soviet policy.

Such a development would face Pyongyang with three major concerns, assistant Professor Hajime Izumi of Shizuoka Prefectural University said.

"One concern is that Moscow under reformist leadership might slash its vital economic and military assistance," he said.

"The second is that new Soviet leaders might bring greater, more overt pressure upon North Korea

than did Mr. Gorbachev to become more democratic," Mr. Izumi said.

A third was that, in response to tumultuous Soviet moves toward democracy, dissidents might surface in North Korea to shake the foundations of its tightly controlled society.

Mr. Izumi said he did not believe North Korea was already troubled with dissidents despite a Radio Pyongyang broadcast this week calling on people to defend the country from what it called manoeuvres by enemies at home and abroad.

Rather, this indicated the leadership intended to prevent dissenters from emerging, he said.

Pyeongyang's official media have in recent years been at pains to describe its socialism as Korean-style to distinguish it from the Soviet communist model, analysts said.

"North Korea is stepping up its ideological education to rearm its people with orthodox socialism," Kim Chang-Soon, head of the Institute of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said.

"The northern rulers might try to reorganise their party by purging anti-party elements and reformers. They will desperately try to top the winds of freedom blowing," he said.

Already, since the wave of democratisation swept Eastern Europe in 1989, North Korea has

tightened ideological control.

"The North Koreans must be watching Soviet developments now with great wariness and anxiety," Mr. Izumi said.

"I don't think North Korea is in such a difficult situation that it has to make hasty changes," he said.

No sudden change to international policy was likely.

"Ties between Pyongyang and Moscow from now on will become more pragmatic," said Masao Okonogi of Keio University. "If the Russian Federation gains power ... the alliance will become one in name only, no longer a reality."

"North Korea will have to increase dependence on China, a major socialist ally ... (but) relations with Japan are the most important," Mr. Okonogi said.

To achieve this the north would eventually have to agree to outside inspection of its secret nuclear plants and to engage in serious dialogue with the south, he said.

However, "as long as Kim Il-Sung is in good health, North Korea as a socialist nation can survive the fall of other communist governments," he said.

"The events in Eastern Europe could not easily occur in Asia ... the cultural traditions here are rather convenient for totalitarian rule."

Bush faces full agenda as he girds for 1992 election

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — After a 28-day summer holiday that involved as much work as play, President George Bush went back to Washington on Tuesday to tackle an array of domestic problems and redesign his foreign policy to reflect the break-up of the Soviet empire.

"What is it about August?" Mr. Bush grumbled after a bumbling power grab by Kremlin hardliners triggered an anti-communist revolution in the Soviet Union two weeks ago, ruining his plan to spend almost a month fishing, boating and playing golf.

It was the second straight year that the president was forced to devote part of his holiday to crisis management. His deft response to the Soviet turmoil, coming atop his successful leadership in the Gulf war, strengthened his image as an international statesman and left him in a commanding position going into the 1992

national legislature — will take on greater and greater political colouring as the tempo of the 1992 campaign picks up.

At the same time, the Republican president will be scrambling to adjust U.S. foreign policy in light of the radically changed Soviet political landscape.

Many issues lie just ahead including one with personal ramifications for Mr. Bush, who admires and respects Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev — but to tack between Mr. Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Administration policymakers make no secret of the fact that they would prefer to deal with Mr. Gorbachev, but they realise that the failed coup left Mr. Yeltsin, a charismatic, popular, elected leader who mobilised the

grace to the right-wing power grab, the real power in Moscow. Mr. Gorbachev "has lost a lot of his power base and a lot of his support," national security adviser Brent Scowcroft said in a television interview on Saturday.

Mr. Scowcroft said the Soviet leader's long-term ability to survive politically "still has to be demonstrated."

As he juggles domestic and foreign policy issues, Mr. Bush will frequently be on the move. Much of his travel, he appears to be looking ahead to November 1992 and moving to strengthen his political flank.

Before heading back to Washington, he visited Lewiston, Maine, to deliver a report to that country on his efforts to improve U.S. education.

Later this month, Mr. Bush will travel to the American west a hotbed of environmental activism, to promote his environmental policies.

Mr. Bush is likely to offer his first comprehensive statement of the policy implications of the Soviet turmoil in a speech to the United Nations. He will deliver that speech during a Sept. 23-24 visit to New York.

Later this autumn, Mr. Bush will attend a NATO summit in Rome, where events in the Soviet Union are again certain to dominate discussion.

After Thanksgiving, which this year falls on Nov. 28, the U.S. leader plans a major Pacific trip that will take him to Japan, Korea, Australia, Indonesia and Singapore.

NEWS ANALYSIS

U.S. presidential campaign.

Mr. Bush, who says the only thing that would keep him from seeking a second four-year term next year is an unexpected health problem, enjoyed a 67 per cent approval rating in a Washington Post/ABC news poll last week.

That was down from his stratospheric 90 per cent popularity rating after the rout of Iraq last February, but still impressive enough to keep a lot of potential challengers on the sidelines.

At this stage of the 1992 election campaign, the Democrats have only one announced candidate for their party's presidential nomination: Paul Tsongas, a little-known former Massachusetts senator.

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and Iowa Senator Tom Harkin are waiting in the wings, but some more prominent Democrats are declining to run.

A big labour rally in Washington on Saturday and a protest here on Sunday by militant AIDS activists were reminders, however, that there is dissatisfaction with Mr. Bush's leadership, particularly on domestic issues.

Battles loom between the White House and Congress over civil rights, health care, education and protection for workers who go on strike.

Mr. Bush's words and actions — and those of his Democratic opponents who control the

Africa's new leaders hunt for embezzled funds abroad

By Nicholas Kotch
Reuters

ABIDJAN — If Africa's new breed of politicians are to be believed, the hunt is on for billions of embezzled dollars salted away in foreign bank accounts.

In August alone, four governments announced legal moves to recover assets they say were stolen under previous one-party regimes whose forte was certainly not book-keeping.

Mali, Congo, Liberia and Sao Tome have started a trend which diplomats predict will catch on as more veteran presidents are forced from office.

"There could be an avalanche effect as former opponents take power and see the state of public finances they have inherited," a European diplomat who follows several West African countries commented.

Ironically it was Switzerland, whose banks are reputed to be the safest haven for presidential nest-eggs, that set the cat among the pigeons.

On August 21, while the world's attention was focused on the failed coup in the Soviet Union, a statement by the Swiss foreign ministry may have been overlooked among the headlines.

The ministry said it had accepted a request by Mali to hire lawyers to establish whether deposed President Moussa Traore and his entourage had illegally transferred \$1 billion abroad during the 23 years they ruled in Bamako.

Mali, as one of the poorest countries on the planet, has been a high priority for Swiss development aid.

The upshot of the decision is that part of the Swiss aid budget will pay for Swiss lawyers to

investigate whether Swiss aid money has been wrongfully deposited in Swiss bank accounts.

The idea led to some quick thinking by the new generation of middle-class and civilian leaders who have come to power this year and last, thanks to popular pro-democracy movements.

A morning-after feeling has already set in as governments, confronted by empty coffers and mountainous debts, try to improve living standards for their people. The recovery of ill-gotten assets abroad would relieve the strain.

In Togo, delegates at the national conference which has taken effective power from President Gnassingbe Eyadema, asked to be given the same help as Mali.

"We appeal to countries that cherish peace, justice and liberty to help Togo to lawfully recover funds which were misappropri-

ated to the prejudice of the Togolese people," a resolution adopted by the conference declared.

Liberia's interim government followed suit, creating an "assets recovery team" working with New York attorneys. Justice Minister Philip Z. Banks said their task was to trace funds allegedly embezzled by high-ups in the 10-year regime of President Samuel Doe, who was killed by rebels in 1990.

"The entire ... effort is aimed at doing justice, returning to the Liberian people the wealth that is rightfully theirs," Mr. Banks said, referring specifically to \$6 million in a London Bank account and numerous properties in the United States.

The national conference unfolding in French-speaking Africa have heard startling allegations of corruption and embezzlement

running into billions of dollars and involving presidents, their families and their cronies.

Congo's marathon conference this year, ending two decades of authoritarian rule by pro-Marxist soldiers, built a huge radio audience throughout Central Africa as the seamy side of power was laid bare.

Two former dignitaries, including a brother of figure-head President Denis Sasson-Nguesso, are in custody over corruption allegations. Justice Minister Martin Bemba went to France in August "to start the process of repatriating assets abroad," a spokesman said.

But as old-style African presidents have often replied when challenged about the alleged venality of their regimes: "It takes two to tango."

"The presidents have to be incriminated, of course. But the

Western companies who pay or bribes are just as guilty," said a economist with the African Development Bank.

He feared that even if new African leaders want to unearth the truth they will face resistance from all sides. Foreign governments who looked the other way while their companies paid bribes to obtain huge contracts are unlikely to lead the clean-up, he said.

Nor are aid agencies who managers failed to stop leakage of funds meant for development.

"The debate is intensifying in Europe because public opinion wants aid to Africa to be proper spent," a Dutch diplomat commented.

"But it will be difficult for country to admit that for years its officials and businessmen have helped the illegal transfer of funds to an African president bank account."

مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Business booming for taxis but passengers getting frustrated

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Business is booming for the taxi industry in Amman, with drivers reporting a two-fold increase of take-home earnings in six months. Good news indeed for thousands of families, but the rising transportation needs of Amman's population leaves many potential passengers waiting endlessly in many areas of the capital peering the horizon for the yellow vehicles.

The question that is raised by many is whether Amman, already facing unprecedented traffic jams and bottlenecks, will be wise to license more taxis to cope with the situation, which, many experts argue, could be only temporary.

Seasonal or not, almost everyone who uses a taxi at least once a day agrees that there is a dearth of cabs whenever there is a need. Taxi drivers agree and say that they hardly move 50 metres without a paying passenger aboard these days while they used to face hours of fruitless cruising in search of a fare only six months back.

There are about 5,000 private taxis operated by 200

offices to cater to the needs of the population of Amman. By all standards, the number is sufficient, and, in practical terms, it should not take more than a few minutes for anyone to get a taxi, experts say.

But the reality today is something else and it has a lot to do with the Gulf crisis, which led to a dramatic increase in Amman's population in the form of expatriates who were forced to leave Kuwait and other Gulf states. Iraqi visitors, vacationing expatriates and tourists at this time of the year have joined the tens of thousands of returnees who have set up homes in Amman since the Gulf crisis erupted in August last year.

"I used to find a taxi in less than five minutes after I got out of my house on the University Road every morning," said Mustafa Malik, a bank employee in downtown Amman. "Now I have to provide for at least an extra 20 minutes in my morning schedule to get a taxi," he said, in what summarised the experience of many these days.

Will an addition of 500 or

so more taxis in Amman solve the problem? Many taxi operators do not think so. They argue that the situation is temporary and demand and supply will automatically balance themselves by the time winter sets in.

"The problem did not arise out of the blue, but the present crunch for taxis will not last long," said Bakht Al Awaishah of Al Firas Taxi office. "There is a large number of Iraqis and tourists in town, and this has created the high demand," he said.

"The demand will decline and stabilise soon, when the tourist season ebbs and vacationing expatriates return to their countries of work," he argued.

"In the meantime, we can do without more vehicles on the roads, which are already clogged on an unprecedented level," he said.

Officials noted that higher number of traffic policemen were assigned to Amman streets these days in a bid to ease the traffic congestion, mostly attributed to the dramatic rise in the number of vehicles brought in by returning expatriates as well as Iraqis visiting Jordan.

They also pointed out that

there were assigned stations for taxis in various areas of Amman and that sharing taxis were permitted from these points. But, many users say, they cannot find taxis at such points when they need them and sometimes they are left to the mercy of drivers who might demand higher fares.

Mohammad Hamlan of Amman Taxi — which maintains four offices with a total of 100 cars in and around the capital — said most of his vehicles were engaged on a daily basis to trips to the Dead Sea, Madaba, Jerash and other tourist attractions.

"This is the case with many other taxi offices in Amman," Mr. Hamlan said, "and that is why there is a marked decrease in the number of taxis plying Amman streets."

According to Mr. Hamlan, one way to ease the situation is to allow an increased number of temporarily licensed mini-buses to add to the number of service taxis on fixed routes.

"This should take care of the seasonal demand without having to register new taxis," he said.

Registering new taxis, said another taxi operator, would have an adverse effect in that there will be additional takers to the available business during winter. "Earnings go down during winter and any addition to the number of taxis will further cut down on the net take-home earnings of the day," he added, preferring anonymity, saying that he did not want to be seen as "denying anyone to the means to make a livelihood."

The average daily earning of a driver who does not own

the vehicle he drives is between JD 10 and JD 12 these days, compared with JD 7 and JD 9 in January this year, according to assessments made by several taxi offices.

The owner makes between JD 8 and JD 12 depending upon the type of vehicle (larger cars with higher fuel consumption fetch less). An owner-cum-driver is obviously better off despite the relatively high investment.

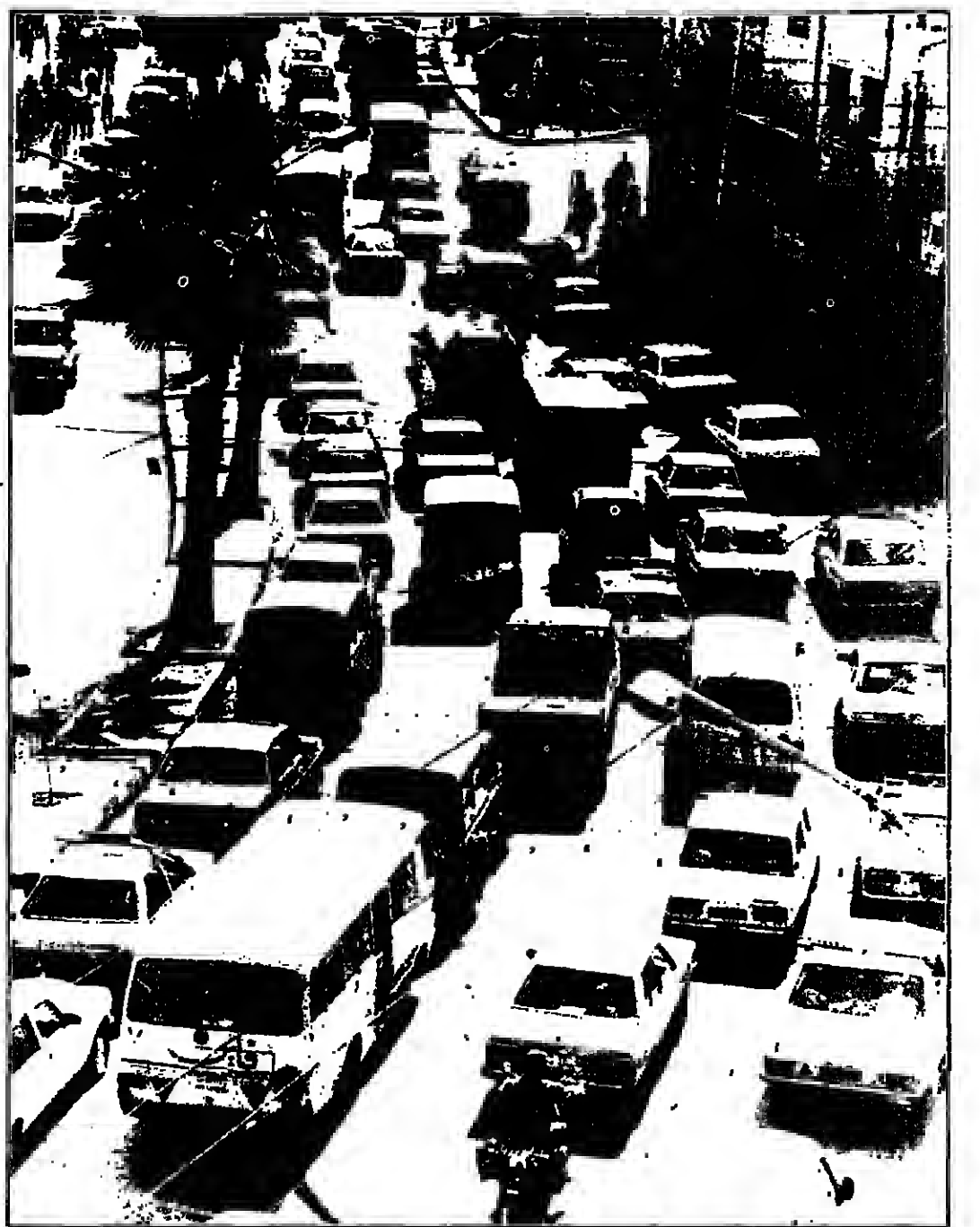
The authorities are not issuing any new licences for taxi offices but transfer the commercial licence of one vehicle to another.

"Our present assessment does not indicate that there is any need for new licences," said a senior official. "If we find the need, then perhaps there could be a change in the policy of not issuing new licences, but it will be on a case-by-case basis," he said.

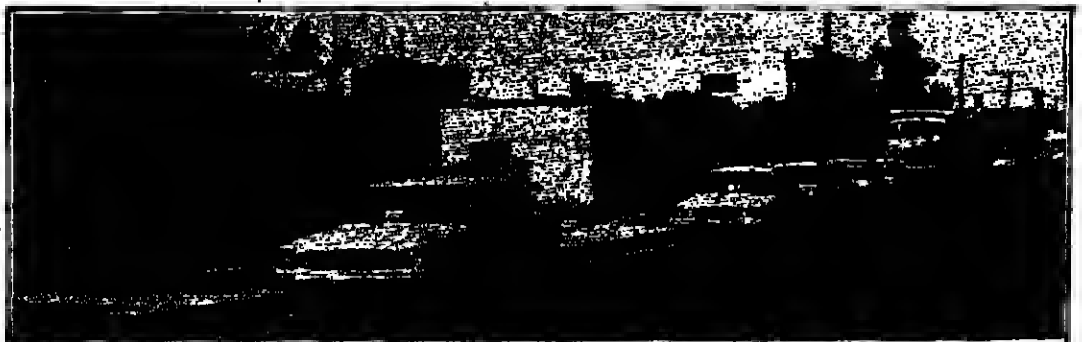
No licensing of new taxi offices means no licensing for new taxis since every taxi has to be registered with one of the taxi offices, which in turn cannot have more than 25 taxis attached to a single office. Every office has to have at least 10 taxis which it owns while the rest could be owned by others who pay JD 15 every month for using the name of the office.

Every taxi should physically report at the office every three hours and carry a signed slip from the office indicating the last time of reporting. Violators of this rule are fined JD 5.

Awni Mitleq, 55, who has been driving in Amman's streets for the past 35 years, estimates the minimum investment in a taxi office these days at JD 100,000. "That is based on an average price of JD 9,500 per car," he said.



Amman is facing unprecedented form of expatriates who were traffic jams and bottlenecks these forced to leave Kuwait and other days due to a dramatic increase in the capital's population in the Gulf states.



Taxis are rarely seen parked in front of their offices as seen in the photo above since business has seen an unusual boom these days.

The challenges and prospects of Paris fashion

By Claire Thierry

PARIS — "Haute couture is condemned." The verdict fell like a guillotine blade in January 1991, just before the sumptuous ritual of fashion collections. The person who spoke these words should know what he is talking about. It was Pierre Bergé, for nearly thirty years the chairman and managing director of the prestigious Saint-Laurent house of fashion. As if to prove him right, Alian Chevalier, in charge of Balmain, announced that he was giving up couture "in its traditional form," an area which, in his firm, barely clad twenty customers.

The funeral speech started a war in luxury fashion circles. Were they in favour of or against a predicted death? According to pessimists, this activity is so expensive that it no longer has any interest even for its value as publicity, to promote the other products of the firm, such as ready-to-wear clothes, accessories and, above all, perfumes.

It is true that the conditions for admission to the highly exclusive and very corporatist Paris Couture Syndical Chamber (with its 22 members and only two new ones among them in the last twenty years) has not changed since before the war. Having to employ 20 people in a company's workshop and, twice a year, to present a collection of at least 75 models, only a third or which would be bought.

At the same time, production costs have exploded, while there is no room for a gain in productivity in this luxury craftsmanship in which much of the work is done by hand. It still takes 150 hours to make the least little dress, an exclusive

woollen fabric costs 2,000 francs a metre and an embroidered silk about 7,000 francs. Presenting a couture collection comes to between 5 and 20 million francs, or even 30 million for Saint-Laurent. Moreover, the latter indicates that he loses an average of 70 million francs on the two yearly collections.

The result is that the prices are sky-high and the drastically falling number of customers is today estimated as being around 3,000. Only a few American, Saudi and, increasingly, Japanese millionaires can afford several of these made-to-measure "very simple, but very couture" suits costing 100,000 francs each or a sumptuous evening dress for 500,000 francs. Many models of evening dress are, moreover, lent, for promotion, to princesses in the jet set, or to cinema or television stars for a gala in Paris or in Monte Carlo.

Times are changing too. Even every wealthy woman prefer to dress in haute couture ready-to-wear clothes today and to shun luxury which appears ostentatious. Another negative point is that the prestigious designers and founders of the big Paris fashion houses have died, such as Mademoiselle Chanel, or are growing old: Cardin and Ferrand are over sixty, Ungaro and Saint-Laurent will soon reach that age. They have no successors to take over and does their virtuoso talent not make them irreplaceable, just like any artist? "If Yves Saint-Laurent passes away, I will close down the couture department," Pierre Bergé coldly asserts. "I am not going to go hunting for fashion designers." In his opinion, the future for grands couturiers lies solely in top of the range ready-to-wear clothes.

with semi-industrialised production in small series.

This clear swan-song aroused the anger of a few fellow grands couturiers who were quite determined to fight to maintain Paris as the fashion capital. And that is what Paris undeniably is today, thanks to the presence of haute couture, a typically French speciality. There are reasons for hope. The "City of Light" has no rival in the world in this area. Foreign couturiers, who wish to gain a world reputation, increasingly come to Paris to present their collections and to open a shop. This has been the case with the Italians Valentino and Gianni Versace, with the Japanese Issey Miyake, and recently with the American Oscar de la Renta. They are sure of free promotion world-wide thanks to the thousands of pages of magazines published in all languages and to television, giving them unequalled media impact.

Some people add that haute couture is a vital necessity for the ready-to-wear fashions. As a permanent laboratory for experimenting, it continuously innovates in cuts, invents textures and launches styles. It is, in fact, the "fundamental research" department without which the clothing industry would not be able to renew itself. It is also a conservancy of such unique know-how that it borders on art by its perfection. It is hardly surprising that Paris honours fashion with two museums, and that a few professionals are thinking of creating a patronage foundation with the aim of supporting the activity of fashion decorators ("paruziers"), who supply the couturiers. The delicate problem of who is to take



Presentation of Yves Saint Laurent's 1991 spring-summer collection

over from the old designers, remains, but some fashion houses have solved this by recruiting the best designers from ready-to-wear. Karl Lagerfeld took over from Coco Chanel. The Italian Gianfranco Ferré has been called to Dior. Claude Montana has taken up the torch at Lanvin, and with success as he received the "Dè d'Or" (Golden Thimble) Award this year.

The death of Paris couture, which has been announced thousands of times, is not for the near future. If, one day, it was to disappear, it would rise in a new form, the following day, like a phoenix — L'Actualité En France.

Lush German island struggles to stay afloat

By Mark Fritz
The Associated Press

RUEGEN, Germany (AP) — With soaring sand dunes, sprawling forests and beautiful bays, the island of Ruegen at first seems as free from care as its swimmers are free from clothing.

But the placid island shares the woes of the rest of the former east Germany, off whose coast it lies. The economy has crashed and east German tourists mostly stayed away this summer.

"There are many, many formidable problems," says Christian Schnitzer, head of the Ruegen County Economics Department "the challenge is to preserve Ruegen while restoring our economy."

Ruegen, home to 86,000 people, has a languid island pace. About half the swimmers on its beaches don't bother with bathing suits. Larger than New York City, the 973-square-kilometre island is a three-hour ferry ride over the Baltic Sea from Sweden and Denmark, which supply most of the foreign tourists.

A ferry also runs to Klaipeda in Lithuania, but currently is being used to return Soviet soldiers vacating the country. "We'd like to use that ferry for perhaps tourists from Poland, but we'll have to wait," says Rolf Buschewski, county tourism chief.

But tourism is second to agriculture on Ruegen, where 65 per cent of the land is arable, Mr. Schnitzer said. "Tourism is highly seasonal and produces low-quality jobs," he said. "The key is reviving agriculture."

About 5,000 of the 8,000 farmers who worked the overstaffed, Soviet-style col-

lectives lost their jobs since last year, Mr. Schnitzer said. Joblessness overall was 12.5 per cent in June. Another 20 per cent work short hours at lower pay.

Mr. Schnitzer says the economy faces another blow because a large east German naval base is slated to close. The land is being turned into a federal preserve.

Mr. Schnitzer will visit the United States this fall to lure investors. He hopes to develop the processing end of the island's agriculture industry.

If agriculture is reeling, tourism is also down slightly because Ruegen is being avoided by eastern Germans. About 60 per cent of the visitors now are curious western Germans, said Mr. Buschewski.

"With the borders opened, easterners are travelling to places they couldn't visit before," he said.

But others complain they are being priced out of their once heavily subsidised vacationland.

"I can afford it, but I don't see how eastern Germans can," said West Berlin fireman Ralf Penke, honeymooning with his east German wife.

Ruegen used to be a favourite haunt of Communist Party chief Erich Honacker and his lieutenants.

They often stayed at the plush Cliff Hotel, a squat, fortress-like structure that juts from the forest on the southwest coast.

Party leaders also had exclusive use of the pristine little island of Vilm, just of Ruegen's south coast. Vilm is now a wildlife sanctuary.

The Communist Party's successor, the Party for Democratic Socialism, con-

tinued to control the Cliff Hotel and other properties as recently as May.

The Treubhandanstalt, the agency set up to sell east Germany's Communist-run enterprises, has been seizing such properties and has fired 1,400 managers. It promises to fire more.

Hotel Director Matthias Scheibe, whose jaunty tailored suit and slick marketing plans belie his party roots, wants to stay.

"If the decision is made on how competent one is, I'm

optimistic," he said. "I've had an intensive lesson in capitalism."

Like everywhere in east Germany, development here is hampered by disputes over who owns what in the post-Communist era.

About 6,000 ex-Ruegeners or their heirs have filed property claims, Mr. Schnitzer said. Despite rough times, people want a piece of paradise.

"In some cases, five or six people have claimed the same land," he said.

PEN PALS

To the Editor:

We would like to publish our names and addresses in the Jordan Times. We are Ghanaian students interested in having pen-friends in Jordan. Our addresses are as follows:-

1. Eric Okeley Connashar
P.O. Box 501, Cape Coast, Ghana
Age: 17 years
Sex: Male
Hobbies: Swimming, jogging, writing and music.
2. Margaret Esi Connashar (Miss)
P.O. Box 501, Cape Coast, Ghana
Age: 22 years
Sex: Female
Hobbies: Music, cycling, hockey, jogging and knitting.
3. Jemimah Ekua Tyson
P.O. Box 501, Cape Coast, Ogunza, Ghana
Age: 28 years
Sex: Female
Hobbies: Lawn tennis, chess, volley, cycling and basketball.

Thanks in advance

Margaret Connashar

Van Damme kick-boxes his way to the top

By Dana Kennedy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "Do you trust me?"

The voice, slightly taunting, belongs to 30-year-old martial arts superstar Jean-Claude Van Damme, about to demonstrate how close he comes to your face with his deadly high kick.

It sounds like a line from double impact, his latest in a string of kick-boxing blockbusters. But this time it's no movie.

Van Damme flexes his powerful chest, the result of daily four-hour workouts, and gazes down at his pointy-tipped cowboy boots.

He abandons his stance for a minute and walks over sympathetically.

"I'm pretty good but there's always a chance I hit you," he says in his lilting

Belgian accent, flashing a wide smile.

Then he moves back. His leg comes up so fast the winds blows by your face in a blur. Reflexes don't work.

"He came this close," says his wife, Gladys, holding her thumb and forefinger about a half-inch (centimetre) apart.

Van Damme throws back his head and laughs. It's just another delightful moment in the enchanted life of Van Damme, Hollywood's newest action hero and the latest European emigre to land in America and mop up the competition.

He is charming, without appearing too calculating, and intense, grilling those who interview and photograph him.

"You are a hero, my friend," he tells a photographer, a World War II veteran who Van Damme

learns served in his native Belgium.

And to call him a little flirtatious is like saying the Sultan of Brunei has a few dollars in the bank.

"My one weakness is women," he confides in a hotel restaurant, while his third wife eats a plate of pasta nearby.

Van Damme plucks several vitamins from his shirt pocket and slides them furtively across the table.

"They will make you strong sexually," he whispers.

Like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Van Damme arrived in California virtually penniless in 1980. He navigated his way to stardom by a canny combination of brain and brawn.

Though he was a karate star and health club owner in Belgium, Van Damme abandoned his career there to

pursue a lifelong dream of movie acting.

"I don't care about the money. It's only paper to me," says Van Damme, whose films such as *Lionheart*, *Cyborg* and *Deathsport* have grossed millions. "I just want to make good movies."

Like Schwarzenegger, Van Damme speaks with an Evangelical fervor.

"When you have two feet and two hands, anything is possible," he says, mounting a familiar refrain of how a humble immigrant can arrive here with little more than discipline and ambition and easily overtake the soft Americans.

Van Damme says he ran afoul of such men early in his career when he was living out of his car.

"The people who run the studios come from good families and have college educa-

tions but they know nothing of the street," he says. "They all follow the rules. That's not my way. If I follow rules, I have to wait years to be an actor and I have to develop a Shakespearean accent or something."

To jump-start his career, Van Damme sought out independent filmmakers more like himself — brassy street-wise producers such as Menahem Golan who gave him his first starring role in 1987's *Bloodsport*.

Van Damme said he was forced to sign a contract when he was "starving" to do a series of martial arts films, and he never envisioned that the movies would turn him into an international star.

In *Double Impact*, he plays dual roles as twin brothers and had his first love scene. He also co-wrote and co-

produced the film.

"I found out that 75 per cent of my fans are women," Van Damme says, his face lighting up. "So we put in a love scene for them."

But he plans to leave karate behind as soon as possible. Two of his next three films will be mainstream movies, he said. He has one deal with Carolco and another with superproducer Jon Peters (*Batman*).

Van Damme wants to eventually direct and achieve the rank of the movie stars he admired as a child in Belgium — "Real men" like Steve McQueen, Anthony Quinn and Marlon Brando.

"To me the biggest joy is to have a passion and have an impact on people through movies," he said.

"I follow nobody," he said. "There is only one Van Damme."



Jean-Claude Van Damme in a scene from his film *Death Warrant*.

Half Dream — a title that mirrors dancer's life

By Martha Waggoner
The Associated Press

DURHAM, (AP) — Half Dream serves not only as the title for the work choreographed by Jin Xing, but also reflects the 23-year-old dancer-choreographer's life.

Jin came to the United States in 1989 for what was supposed to be a nine-month cultural exchange program.

Tiananmen Square — and his own dreams — interfered. Jin, who has married an American gymnast, talks of becoming a permanent U.S. resident, though he'd like to return to his homeland one day.

He has spent the summer in Durham as one of four in the international choreographers commissioning programme at the American Dance Festival (ADF). He talks opera lessons and hopes to be a singer, too.

Now Jin is seeing the first major production of one of his dances. *Half Dream* is a modern dance set to 5,000-year-old Chinese music.

The dream needs the audience to be completed, he said, explaining that parts can be a nightmare and it's up to the audience to interpret.

"Just so they can feel something," he said.

Jin likes the combination of old and new, just as he likes the mix of modern dance — a Western art form — with Chinese culture and tradition.

"It's a beautiful mesh," he said.

The mesh was made possible by two people — Charles Reinhart, ADF director, and Yang Mei, director of the Guangdong Dance Academy in the Guangdong province, formerly Canton.

When Yang visited the ADF four years ago, she asked Reinhart to help her

build a modern dance programme at the Guangdong Academy, where students previously had concentrated on Russian ballet and Chinese folk dance.

ADF sent teachers with the understanding they would help develop Chinese modern dance, not teach the Western form.

The modern dances performed by the Guangdong dancers in China must be approved by government officials. But Reinhart said modern dance is a difficult art form for censors.

"If there are words, they can understand," he said. "Modern dance is more of a feeling, more of an impression. It's not so direct. The censors don't know what to do with modern dance."

For example, one dance described as a woman in bed contemplating an abortion also has been described as a woman fighting insomnia.

When Yang speaks of modern dance — through an interpreter — she talks of "developing the creative spirit" and the character of the individual" and of the dancer's chance "to freely express himself or herself."

The modern dance programme has been developed with the cooperation of the province officials, she said. China is now "open to the rest of the world so we have a chance to know more things about modern dance."

But the company's efforts haven't always been a hit with Chinese audiences, she said.

"Some think modern dance is too abstract ... the Chinese audience likes to see the beautiful things and the beautiful style. We show the abstract, the natural," she said.

Yang seems to speak freely about modern dance in Chi-

na, but she chooses her words more carefully when asked about Jin. He was one of her students and supposed to return to China to help her teach modern dance.

"I think Jin Xing can choose his own road," she said. "If he wants to come back, he is welcome."

At some points in history, Jin's decision might have stopped the Guangdong dancers from performing in China, much less in the United States.

But David Hochoy, an ADF choreographer who taught in China last fall for 10 weeks, believes that since the Communist Chinese government's brutal crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Peking's Tiananmen Square in June 1989, "the Chinese government is very eager to make a good impression on the outside world."

Reinhart is uncertain why

the Chinese allow the dancers to continue with this Western art form. He doubts the troupe would be allowed to continue in Peking, but Guangdong's proximity to Hong Kong helps the dancers continue, he said. "There is a different point of view," he said.

Yang agreed. "We have more opportunities to have culture and arts exchange with the outside," she said. "So the ideas and thoughts of people are active."

Reinhart said there's no political tension, and he doesn't think about the possibility of dancers defecting.

"I'm not concerned about that. What happens, happens," he said, adding that the Chinese modern dancers "have the same incredible drive that all modern dance pioneers have."

Said Hochoy: "The mere fact they're here is a miracle."

Garcia Marquez still productive after winning Nobel Prize

By John Wright
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gabriel Garcia Marquez says he has never felt daunted by winning the Nobel Prize in literature, which brings with it distractions as well as distinction.

"When one is a writer, he writes under whatever circumstances before and after the prize, whatever," the 1982 winner said in a recent interview. "The only thing that stops a writer is death."

Winning the Nobel can burden an author with a busy schedule of speeches, interviews and other public appearances, leaving little time for the pursuit that gained him recognition: Writing.

But Garcia Marquez, energetic at 63, pool-pools this, and he remains productive and creative.

"I'm writing a novel and my memoirs at the same time. But I'm very busy with other things now, and I'm taking a break from literature," Garcia Marquez said.

The author of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Chronicle of a Foreseen Death* is credited with inventing a literary style called "magical realism" in which fantastic events seem credible.

He has popularised Latin American literature in North America and Europe and helped create a readership for a whole generation of writers.

Some critics have said that writers produce little of value after winning the Nobel. Garcia Marquez responded, "that's a lie."

"Since winning the Nobel Prize, I wrote *Love in the Time of Cholera* and *The General in His Labyrinth*. I've written all sorts of things since that," he emphasised.

Besides his novels, he has written numerous short stories and screenplays. His essays and articles on diverse topics appear frequently in Latin American newspapers.

Garcia Marquez was guest of honour at the 1991 Latin Film Festival in New York, but he didn't attend the inaugural festivities because about 50 anti-Cuba protesters blocked his path.

As president of the Foundation for New Latin American Cinema in Cuba, he has had difficulty getting a visa to come to the United States due, in part, to his friendship with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Garcia Marquez used to spend quite a bit of time in Havana at the cinema school. Now he can be found increasingly back in Colombia.



Gabriel Garcia Marquez

"I didn't stay in Colombia because I didn't feel that conditions in Colombia were good enough," he said of his homeland which has endured years of guerrilla war between the government and leftist rebels as well as a reign of terror by drug barons.

"For 10 years, every security service in the world was trying to catch Pablo Escobar and couldn't. And President Gaviria captured him with a decree," he said.

By confessing to a crime, the 41-year-old head of the Medellin cocaine cartel and other drug lords become eligible for a reduced sentence and the government's promise not to extradite them. Escobar, who surrendered in June, was wanted for murder and other charges.

After taking office last August, President Cesar Gaviria issued a decree in September setting conditions to coax traffickers to surrender. Since then, violence in Colombia has fallen sharply. Garcia Marquez called the decree "a triumph of intelligence."

Even though he's spending more time in Colombia, Garcia Marquez won't commit to returning home permanently. Most of his novels take place in his homeland, although he hasn't lived there in 33 years.

"It's good for a writer to distance himself from his own country because it gives him a perspective that he doesn't have inside his country," he said. "Writers almost always try to look at their country from outside, from afar."

What he writes from afar always goes back to one simple, central theme, he said.

His works always explore "the search for identity for who we are, what makes us distinctly Latin Americans," he said. "I never find the answer, because the day I find it, I won't write anymore. I'd rather not find it and go on looking for it."

Hank Sasaki — a not so typical country singer

By Joe Edwards
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — He's your typical country singer. He plays guitar, writes songs, sings about cowboys, wears jeans and boots and grew up listening to Hank Williams.

And he has a southern accent — from southern Japan.

Hank Sasaki, a veteran performer in Japan, has spent the past three years in Nashville. His goal: To become the first Japanese-born star in country music history.

"I want to prove country music can be international music," Sasaki said.

"Country music is about hard-working people and songs telling about ordinary human life — sadness, hoping."

"Country music relates to everybody, no matter where you're from or what language you speak. They are songs everybody can sing, even children."

Sasaki, who won't reveal his age, was born and raised in a small village in Japan. He traces his interest in country music to when he was 15 and heard a Hank Williams song on the radio.

"It touched my heart. I almost cried," he said.

About the same time, his mother bought him a guitar. At 18, he moved to the city of Fukuoka and joined a Japanese country music band.

He spent eight years with the group, performing often at nearby U.S. servicemen nick-

named him Hank when they heard him singing Williams' songs. His given name is Masataka.

"I think they couldn't pronounce 'Masataka,'" he said cheerfully.

He later owned and managed a nightclub. Along the way, he began writing songs in his "second language."

"I learned English listening to country music," Sasaki said.

Then, in 1988, he left for Nashville.

"People thought I was crazy," he said. "But I wanted to create my music. Nashville is the centre of country music, and everybody wants to go there. I wanted a challenge — taking a risk."

Nashville has a few country musicians from Japan, but no established singers.

Sasaki has been recording for the independent Badger Records — not a guarantee of success or instant radio air play. But it's a start.

He's also performed periodically on Cable TV's the Nashville Network, and he's appeared in concert across the south.

One of his most popular tunes is Japanese Cowboy. Also in his repertoire are songs like *The Last Samurai* and Western-sounding tunes like *The Cowboy Rides Away*.

He also performs the traditional *Will The Circle Be Unbroken*, and *Sukiyaki*, which was a No. 1 pop song in the United States in 1963 by Kyu Sakamoto. It was also released in 1981 by the duo A Taste Of Honey.

Charlie Haden — a man who launched a musical revolution

By Charles J. Gans
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's been more than 30 years since bassist Charlie Haden helped launch a musical revolution with Ornette Coleman's "free jazz" quartet. Today, he remains an insurgent, combining a passion for creative music with a deep-rooted concern for human rights and racial equality.

At a time when young jazz musicians are playing older styles like bebop, the 54-year-old Haden continues to expand his musical horizons.

His deep, rich bass can be heard on recent albums with a wide range of styles: Pop musicians Rickie Lee Jones and Bruce Hornsby; jazz musicians Stan Getz, David Sanborn and Paul Bley; Portuguese 14-string guitar master Carlos Paredes and Gonzalo Rubalcaba; a Cuban jazz pianist Haden discovered on a 1986 trip to Havana.

"Every album that I make, I always feel a responsibility to bring deep values to people," said the soft-spoken Haden, who looks more professional than revolutionary with his horn-rimmed glasses and short, gray-flecked hair.

"I try to reach as many people as possible with a message of hope and beauty, because it's so important to bring back the depth into this world that's taken away by all of these idiots that just want to make all this money."

Haden regularly wins Jazz magazine polls as the top acoustic bassist. Like the late

Charles Mingus, Haden has gone beyond the bassist's traditional background role to establish himself as a band-leader and composer.

In July, Haden toured European festivals with his Liberation Music Orchestra (LMO), whose roots go back to the Vietnam protest era of the late 1960s.

The orchestra has recorded three critically acclaimed albums mixing jazz and politics: "Liberation Music Orchestra" in 1969; *Ballad of the Fallen* in 1983, and this year's *Dream Keeper* which was co-produced by labels in the United States (Blue Note), Japan (Disc Union) and France (Polygram).

The title track on *Dream Keeper* is a suite based on a poem by Langston Hughes about racism. Into it, Carla Bley — who arranged all three LMO albums — has woven a traditional Venezuelan song, a revolutionary song from El Salvador, and an anthem from the Spanish civil war.

Another highlight is a jazz version of the African National Congress' anthem "Nkosi Sikelel' i Africa" with passionate solos by saxophonists Dewey Redman and Ken McIntyre.

Haden has long been involved in "world music" fusions with musicians from other cultures. His latest such collaboration is *Dialogues*, a duet recording with Paredes, a guitarist rooted in the Portuguese fado tradition.

"It was just like playing with Ornette Coleman — you have to listen to every note that he plays as you're play-

ing," Haden said of Paredes. "I don't like to force musicians from other countries to play jazz. I like to play with them what they're playing."

Haden says his openness to different forms of music developed from his country music background.

Haden was born in 1937 in Shenandoah, Iowa. His musical schooling came from performing from age 2 until age 15 in the Haden family's country music band. He grew up with folk and hillbilly music, Gospel in the black churches, and classical, Latin and jazz music on the radio.

His older brother, Jim, was a bass player, and Charlie taught himself to read music and play along with his brother's jazz records.

Haden finished high school in Forsyth, in the Ozarks, and began performing with a small band and on a local television programme.

In 1956, the 19-year-old left for Los Angeles, where he enrolled in the Westlake College of Modern Music. He soon dropped out, preferring numerous jam sessions to the classroom.

Haden learned to play the bebop standards, but then began hearing other ways to improvise. He found a soul mate when he heard Coleman playing his plastic alto sax at a 1957 jam session at a local club.

"The first time I played with Ornette, it was like the lights were turned on for me because here was someone else who was hearing and doing the same thing I was," Haden recalled. "I wanted to play on the inspiration of a

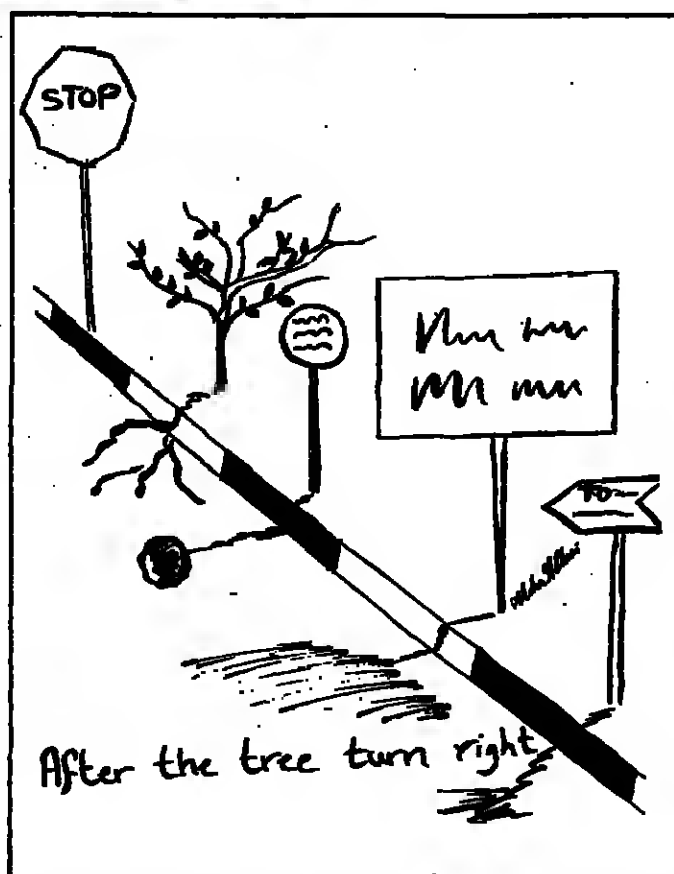
Giving Directions

By Maha Addasi

ASK anyone at random for directions to their house and it will be a surefire way to make your head spin. The directions will be something like this: You go to such and such circle and then take the first right turn. Then you will come across a huge bump in the road. There you would turn right again. You'll see two trees. You turn left after the big tree. Right after your turn you will find a mound of sand used for the construction of a house in the area and villa opposite that is our house. If I were given directions such as these I would no longer want to visit those people. I'd give up when a tree is considered a landmark. Or better yet a sand mound. What if the tree was eaten by a goat that week. Or the construction people used up the entire sand-pile. Then what?

Of course there is another alternative which is to follow behind in your car as the person you are visiting leads in his or her car. And if you are in the leading car your patience will be tried like no other time. The person following you either tailgates you so you can't breathe and they can't even see the left and right signals. Or they follow one mile behind you and end up getting caught at every traffic light so that by the time this happens for the third time you just want to drive off. You don't want them to visit you any more.

The third alternative is to shove your visitors in your car and take them home with you. At which time they will gossip all the way to your house and not even take note of the landmarks and directions. You are back at square one. Some people draw maps. They're clear as mud, but nevertheless, they are maps. Maps are something we are in dire need of. The houses are numbered. The streets are named, (although the names are often hidden behind, you guessed it, sandmounds and overgrown trees). Why not make your own personalised, professional looking maps? All you need to do is get a map of Jordan and make



miniature prints of the area your house is in. Enlarge it and add all the detailed directions and your trees. Then reduce it once again. After that you could find a print shop and have this personal map reprinted. To get to the print shop, I'm afraid you need directions.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE

THE SAPPHIRE

Family: Corundum.
Colour: From pale to cornflower blue. Also found in shades of green, pink, purple, orange and yellow.
Geographical sources: Australia, Kalimantan, Burma, Ceylon, Kashmir, Thailand and America.
Legendary background: The gem of the soul and autumn, considered the most spiritual of all gems representing the purity of the soul as it mirrors the blue of heaven. By wearing a sapphire it was thought possible to reject envy and attract divine favour. According to the ancients it possessed power to influence spirits, to charm against wantonness, to promote peace and to protect its owner from

captivity. The Persians thought that the earth rested on a giant sapphire whose pale blue reflection could be seen in the sky. Sorcerers honoured it more than any other stone as it allegedly allowed them to hear and to understand the most obscure of oracles.
Qualities: Charm and enduring love.

Jewellery interpretations: Over the centuries it has had a place of honour in the Royal Regalia. Two appear in the British Imperial State Crown, one of which was owned by Edward the Confessor. A Pope in the 6th century decreed that a sapphire ring could be worn on the right hand of cardinals to make the blessing. The rare "Star" sapphire viewed from above gives a six-rayed effect, due to the peculiar crystal structure reflecting the light.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Sept. 5

1514 — Selim I of Turkey enters Tabriz, Persia.

1590 — Duke of Parma, advancing from the Netherlands, forces France's King Henry IV to lift siege of Paris in Catholic League War.

1658 — Dutch take Jaffnapattam, last Portuguese possession in Ceylon.

1698 — New East India Company is granted charter by King William III of England; Peter the Great executes the Streltsy rebels in Russia and imposes tax on beards.

1798 — Turkey declares war on France.

1860 — Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia and Turkey sign treaty to restore order in Syria after massacre of Christians by Druzes.

1864 — Combined British, French and Dutch fleets attack Japan in Shimonoseki Straits in reprisal for closing ports and expelling foreigners.

1905 — Treaty of Portsmouth (New Hampshire, U.S.), with U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt mediating, ends Russo-Japanese War.

1939 — United States proclaims neutrality, in World War II.

1969 — Arrests are made in Saudi Arabia following reports of abortive coup.

1977 — Gunmen in West Germany kidnap prominent German industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer and kill four of his bodyguard.

1986 — Four gunmen holding hijacked Pan Am jet in Pakistan open fire on passengers without warning, and witnesses say at least 100 people are gunned down.

1987 — Israeli jets blast Palestinian bases near Sidon, killing 41 people and wounding 60.

1989 — Hundreds of thousands of blacks begin two-day strike in South Africa on eve of segregated elections.

1990 — Iraq renews call for

holy war against Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations supporting blockade.

Friday, Sept. 6

1565 — Spanish troops arrive from Sicily, and Turks are forced to abandon siege of Malta.

1620 — Pilgrims sail on the Mayflower from Plymouth, England, to settle in the new world.

1672 — William of Orange captures Naarden in Holland.

1688 — Turks lose Belgrade to Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I, whose forces subsequently occupy Bosnia, Serbia and Wallachia.

1715 — Jacobite uprising known as "the fifteen" begins at Braemar in Scotland.

1782 — Britain and France begin naval battle of Cuddalore off Madras, India.

1813 — French under Michel Ney are defeated by Prussians at Dennewitz in Germany.

1914 — First battle of the Marne begins in World War I.

1926 — Chiang Kai-Shek's forces reach Hankow in his northern campaign in Chinese civil war.

1935 — Anti-Greek riots break out at Istanbul and Izmir in Turkey.

1965 — India invades West Pakistan and bombs city of Lahore.

1966 — Prime Minister Hendrik F. Verwoerd of South Africa is stabbed to death during parliament session in Cape Town.

1975 — More than 2,300 people are killed by earthquake in eastern Turkey.

1987 — Chadian troops strike into Libyan territory for first time and claim to have annihilated a military air-ground complex.

1988 — Iraq government declares amnesty for anti-government Kurds.

1989 — Cuban airliner crashes into suburb on takeoff from Havana, killing 170 people.

1990 — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announces plans to reinforce her country's troops in the Gulf.

Saturday, Sept. 7

1599 — Britain's Earl of Essex signs truce with Irish rebel Tyrone.

1701 — Treaty of the Hague, known as the Grand Alliance, is signed, whereby Britain, Holland and Holy Roman Empire ally against France.

1714 — France signs peace of Baden with Holy Roman Empire, whereby France keeps Alsace and Strasbourg.

1764 — Stanislas Poniatowski, protégé of Russia, is elected King of Poland.

1812 — Russians begin retreat after defeat by French at Borodino and begin to abandon Moscow.

1822 — Brazil proclaims independence from Portugal.

1848 — Serfdom is abolished in Austria.

1901 — Peace of Peking ends boxer rebellion in China.

1931 — Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi attends second India roundtable conference in London which fails to reach agreement on representation of religious minorities.

1939 — German army overruns Pomerania and Silesia in Poland.

1945 — U.S. President Harry Truman, at end of World War II, receives surrender paper signed by Japanese aboard U.S. battleship Missouri.

1962 — Laos establishes diplomatic relations with China and North Vietnam.

1963 — French President Charles De Gaulle arrives in Hamburg and proposes closer ties between French and German armed forces.

1987 — West German engineer Alfred Schmidt is released by Shi'ite Muslim kidnappers in Beirut, after seven months as captive.

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1988 — Growing unrest prompts several foreign countries to order families of diplomats evacuated from Burma.

1989 — Sri Lanka government, in bid to end country's ethnic conflict, invites Sinhalese and Tamil militants for peace talks.

1990 — Japan and South Korea join Kuwait in pledging to contribute to massive costs of economic and military campaign against Iraq in the Gulf.

Sunday, Sept. 8

1494 — France's King Charles VIII enters Turin, Italy, seeking to establish his claim to throne of Naples.

1545 — Britain's Earl of Hertford leads punitive raid into Scotland.

1760 — Wisconsin in North America comes under English control after being French territory.

1831 — Russia takes Warsaw after two-day battle, and Polish revolt collapses.

1855 — Crimean War ends.

1915 — Nicholas Nicolaievich is relieved of his army command in Russia and Tsar Nicholas II takes over personally.

1926 — Germany is admitted to League of Nations.

1934 — Fire aboard luxury liner *Montro Castle* off New Jersey coast takes 134 lives.

1943 — Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower announces Italy's unconditional surrender in World War II.

1944 — First German V-2 rockets land in Britain.

1954 — South East Asia Defence Treaty and Pacific Charter is signed in Manila by Britain, France, United States, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines.

1972 — Israeli Air Force attacks 10 Palestinian bases and naval installations in Syria and Lebanon.

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JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 5

8:30 Family Man

Throw Mama From The House

The family has a visitor — grandma, Jack's mother — and there is a celebration of Jack's birthday.

9:10 Outlaws

Independents

Starring: Rod Taylor

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Boom Town

Starring: Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Clodette Colbert and Hedy Lamar

Friday, Sept. 6

8:30 Night Court

9:10 Forever Green

Starring: Pauline Collins and John Alderton

10:00 News in English

Saturday, Sept. 7

8:30 Kate And Allie

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 New in English

10:00 Feature Film

The Waltz King



Edward Woodward stars as Maxwell Beckett in the mystery series *Over My Dead Body* Monday at 10:20

Starring: Senta Bergen
The life and works of Johan Strauss and his music.

Sunday, Sept. 8

8:30 The Simpsons

8:55 Spotlight

Jordan's National Speech and Hearing Centre

Monday, Sept. 9

9:20 Documentay — Byline

The Hidden Cost Of Tourism — Turkey '88

10:00 News In English

10:20 Hunter

Street Wise

Starring: Fred Dryer and Stephanie Kramer

Monday, Sept. 9

8:30 Surgical Spirits

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Smooth Operators

Jessica investigates the murder of Elliot Winston who works in a hospital. The suspect is one of the physicians.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Over My Dead Body

Tuesday, Sept. 10

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Duck Soap

Larry and Balki go duck hunting but the only shot is taken at the boss.

8:55 Museums In Jordan

9:10 Our House

10:00 News In English

10:20 Colombo

Wednesday, Sept. 11

8:30 Golden Girls

9:10 Silk Route To The Sea

10:00 New In English

10:20 French Miniseries

Rensuignements Generaux
Le Policier Du Dimanche Soir

Discoverer of Titanic and Bismarck wrecks to try for PT-109

By Michael Bello
Reuters

BOSTON — The undersea explorer who found the Titanic and Nazi Germany's battleship Bismarck has set his sights on another wreck — John F. Kennedy's first command, PT-109.

Robert Ballard is planning an advance mission to the South Pacific to determine whether it is worthwhile to send a major expedition to photograph several ships sunk in the World War II Battle of Guadalcanal.

Some 100 ships sank in the battle, including a small patrol torpedo boat lost in the first hours of fighting when it was sliced in half by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri.

Navy Lieutenant Kennedy, commander of PT-109, became a war hero by saving many of his crew. He returned home to a political career which took him to the White House.

"It might be like looking for a needle in a haystack," Mr. Ballard told Reuters. "No one has ever put their head underwater in this area of the South Pacific."

Mr. Ballard plans to go to the Pacific in mid-October with half a dozen researchers. They will scan the area off Gizo Island where the PT-109 sank on Aug. 2, 1943 at the start of a month-long campaign to push back the Japanese navy.

Survivors of the incident said the Amagiri was travelling at 40 knots when it was sighted by crew members 10 seconds before it hit.

Ballard believes that after the crash the stern of the mostly wooden patrol boat sank to the seabed and the bow eventually washed ashore where it broke up.

So what is left to find? "There may be an engine and the ship's torpedo launchers still lying under 460 metres of water," said Mr. Ballard, a scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Mr. Ballard is used to long odds.

In September 1985 he captured the first of what would become years of world headlines when a joint U.S.-French expedition which he helped organise found — quite by accident — the Titanic's final resting place.

The purpose of the expedition had been to test a new remote-controlled underwater vehicle called the Argo. They picked the general area where the ocean liner sank after hitting an iceberg in April 1912 during its maiden voyage.

"They thought if they were going to test the Argo they might as well do it in a potentially interesting area," a WHOI spokeswoman said at the time, adding that they had just "stumbled on" what appeared to be the elusive luxury liner.

The discovery touched off a bitter dispute between WHOI and the French research group, which later removed some 900 artefacts from the ship, despite Mr. Ballard's objections.

Ballard exacted some measure of revenge by releasing to the media pictures of the Titanic which his former partners, the French Institute for Research and Exploration of the Sea, had wanted to sell.

Two years ago Mr. Ballard, again using Argo, located the sunken Nazi battleship Bismarck.

The Bismarck, the most powerful vessel in the German navy, went down on May 27, 1941, under fire from British ships pursuing the heavily armoured battleship on direct orders from Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

The deep-sea robot submarine will be used again if Mr. Ballard's advance mission in search of PT-109 proves fruitful.

"The purpose of our advance mission is to determine if it's worth a major expedition," he said. "We must find out if the currents are too strong down there."

Old-boy network lasts; women hold just 3 per cent of top jobs

By Karen Ball
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An enduring old-boy network helps explain why less than 3 per cent of the top jobs at Fortune 500 companies belonged to women in 1990, according to a study released recently by a feminist group.

"The men at the top look to former colleagues and old school ties. In both areas, women have been virtually absent," said a study by the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Of the 6,502 jobs at the vice presidential and higher level at the nation's largest corporations, only 175, or 2.6 per cent, were held by women, said the study. The report was based on 1990

figures compiled by a researcher at the University of Southern California.

"At the current rate of increase in executive women, it will take until the year 2466 — or over 450 years — to reach equality with executive men," said Eleanor Smeal, former president of the National Organisation for Women, who now heads the Feminist Majority.

The group, a Washington-area research and advocacy organisation, timed the study's release to coincide with the 71st anniversary of women's gaining the right to vote in the United States.

Besides finding a low number of women in key executive positions, the study found that corporate boards were "dominated with women."

Last year, 4.5 per cent — or 254 of 5,384 — of the Fortune 500 directorships were held by women.

And only five women held the chief executive officer position at Fortune 500 companies, the study said.

In contrast to the highest-level management jobs, the study found that women hold 40 per cent of all executive, management and administrative positions, up from 24 per cent in 1976.

"They remain confined mostly to the middle and lower ranks, and the senior levels of management are almost exclusively male domains," the study said.

Citing various reports, the study said women are still victims of an old-boy network and male "clubbiness" that

dominates corporate executive suites. Men, when deciding whom to promote, often tap people like themselves, the study said.

But Peter Eide, manager of labour law for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, disputed the notion that an old-boy network or discrimination keep women from rising.

If barriers for women exist, they are due to a "pipeline issue," Mr. Eide said, because women and minorities didn't enter the business world in large numbers until the 1970s.

Women now have the experience to be in line for mid-level positions, Mr. Eide said, and women are being given higher-level positions all the time.

Organs for sale

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — The case of Californian baby Marissa Ayala, deliberately conceived for the lifesaving bone marrow she was able to supply to her dying older sister, has touched off a new round of moral soul-searching in medical and theological circles. Is it right, people have been asking, for a couple to bring a child into the world with the sole aim of using parts of that infant's body to save another member of the family?

In general, public opinion appears to have come down in favour of the Ayalas. They took the only chance they had of saving their 19-year-old daughter fatally ill with a chronic strain of leukemia, and their gamble paid off. The bone marrow transplant on the elder sister appears to have been a success, and the younger child, now 17 months old, is none the worse for her ordeal and ready to get on with the rest of her life.

But the Ayala case has highlighted other dilemmas, far more difficult to answer. The Californian couple resorted to extremes because they were unable to find an existing donor within the family, whose bone marrow would have been compatible. But every day that situation repeats itself around the world, say transplant surgeons meeting in Rome. Every day, they say, doctors are forced to make difficult decisions about who should live and who should die — and about how many questions they should be asking about the provenance of organs used in transplants.

A desperate worldwide shortage of organs from cadavers — the traditional source of hearts, kidneys, lungs, livers and corneas for transplants — means more and more people are dying needlessly, say medical experts. In the U.S. and Europe, there are simply not enough people who die young and healthy to satisfy the growing demand for transplant operations. Ironically, seat belt, helmet and speed limit laws have all helped to drastically reduce the number of organs available to surgeons. Lack of public awareness and coordination between hospitals and doctors have done the rest. In the U.S. and Europe only one-sixth of the potential donors are actually utilised.

In many parts of the developing world, there is virtually no supply of cadaver

donors whatsoever, due to a combination of religious objections and lack of public information or infrastructure for transplants.

One answer to the shortage has been to turn to living donors, either those who, as in the case of the Ayalas, are related to the victim, or, more troubling, "volunteer" donors who are prepared to part with an organ in return for remuneration, usually in the form of hard cash. The former practice is now widely accepted in the international medical community, albeit with certain misgivings: A mother gives a kidney to save a child. Sisters and brothers donate a lobe of their liver to help a sibling. Wherever the organ is superfluous — the body can function quite well with just one kidney — or regenerative as in the case of the liver and bone marrow, the donation of an organ from one family member to another can be the only answer when time is of the essence and waiting lists are long.

How much is a kidney worth?

But the second option — the paid-for organ — has the medical profession writhing in collective agonies of self-doubt. Is it right for a healthy but financially burdened man or woman to deprive himself of one of his kidneys or a piece of skin in order to give his children a better education or put a roof over his family's head? Does the child of a wealthy family, suffering from kidney disease, have the right to live by buying an organ from a poor family in the developing world, when a child from Africa or India would certainly die? And at what point does the legitimate sale of an organ for the sake of the family stop and pure greed take over? Is it right to sell one's organs to buy a new car instead of things that are basic for survival? How desperate must a man be to part with a kidney? And how much is a kidney worth?

Only the last question seems to have an easy answer. A kidney is worth whatever a person is prepared to pay for it, and like any other commodity, it is subject to market prices, dictated by supply and demand. At present, the going rate in India, one of the main sources of organs for the wealthier countries, is between \$2,000 and \$4,000, say doctors who have studied this growing industry.

And the black market in organs certainly is



Dr. Raffaele Cortesini, one of Europe's top transplant surgeons, heads the Society for Organ Sharing which aims to regulate the 'organ' market.

flourishing. "The problem is very grave especially in India and Brazil," said Italian transplant surgeon Dr. Raffaele Cortesini, president-elect of the Society for Organ Sharing, an association of doctors which aims to control the distribution of organs and which held its first international congress in Rome earlier this summer. In fact, evidence gathered by doctors suggests that a brisk trade in organs is operating in many parts of the developing world, including India, Pakistan, South America, Mexico, China and parts of South East Asia.

"There are some clinics in India that specialise in doing kidney transplants using paid donors, especially in Bombay," said Dr. Cortesini, who is one of Europe's leading transplant surgeons. Bombay is the centre for clients from the Middle East, say doctors. Madras, in the south, has clinics that tend to be patronised by wealthy patients from Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

In India, Pakistan, parts of Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe people openly run advertisements in newspapers, offering a kidney for sale. In Hong Kong earlier this year, a businessman contacted several doctors, offering to act as broker between patients needing re-

nal transplants and a military hospital in Nanjing, China, which would perform the operations and which claimed to have a supply of "volunteer" donors. In China itself, an estimated 2,000 transplants a year are carried out with kidneys taken from living donors. An unknown number is also performed using organs from prisoners who have been executed. In the Philippines, there have been cases documented where prisoners have been granted reduced sentences or parole in exchange for the gift of a kidney.

In the industrialised world, some countries such as the U.S. have placed an outright ban on remuneration for organs. Britain outlawed the selling of organs in 1989 after a Turkish citizen complained he had moved to London on the strength of a job offer only to be mysteriously anaesthetised and robbed of one of his kidneys. Germany is about to pass legislation in the wake of attempts by a clinic in Moscow to sell kidneys to patients in Germany.

As for the surgeons whose job it is to carry out the transplants, they are trying to come up with their own set of guidelines. But there is still no real consensus. "The idea of transplants is something that is so new and has developed so quickly," said Dr.

Cortesini. "Our culture has not kept pace. Science and technology have moved too fast." Like many surgeons from the industrialised world, he finds the idea of paid-for organs unacceptable. He is adamant he would never operate on a patient if he believed the organ had been sold by its owner, even if the transplant could save his patient's life. At the Rome conference, there was some discussion among doctors of a way of what Dr. Cortesini describes as "rewarding a gift" from a living donor. This could take the form of a social insurance policy funded by the government, he said. "The difference is between being reimbursed and being paid," but he added, clearly uncomfortable, "I am not convinced."

The furthest Dr. Cortesini will go is in admitting the idea of an incentive to encourage people to bequeath their organs after their death. This could range from help with funeral expenses to funds set up for the donors' children, left behind. "For us this is much more equitable," said the Italian doctor. "We have to discourage donors from the living and encourage them from the dead. In India they burn cadavers. They destroy the body, while at the same time selling organs from people who are still alive."

The aim of the Society for Organ Transplants is to bring about reversal of that situation, through a combined strategy which includes pressuring governments to outlaw organ selling, educating the public to accept the idea of donating organs after death, and helping to set up legitimate transplant centres in the developing world. Already there are transplant programmes operating in Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, India and Turkey. New centres were opened recently in Oman and Saudi Arabia and one in Kuwait is being rebuilt. Often they are staffed by surgeons trained in Western hospitals and the standards are high — unlike those in some of the unofficial clinics. "There the results are often very bad," said Dr. Cortesini. "Once there are good centres in the developing world, the illicit trade in organs and the back street clinics will die out."

But while most doctors agree on the need to control organ distribution, at least one surgeon has cautioned the industrialised nations not to judge the developing world by their own standards. Dr. Raj Yadav, director of transplant surgery at Badra Hospital and Medical Re-

search Centre in New Delhi, says he too is totally opposed to the sale of organs from the poorer corners of the world to the wealthy. But he claims a controlled market for parts of the human body, donated voluntarily and in exchange for compensation, could be an answer for some developing countries that have no source of organs from cadavers.

Dr. Yadav's opinion, he says, is the result of more than 20 years of trying to establish a successful transplant programme in India. Although transplants are performed there, he says, many people die each year because of the lack of usable organs. In the absence of corpse-donors, surgeons are forced to rely almost exclusively on living, related donors willing to sacrifice an organ to save a relative. And their number is scarce.

"In the past, I have always been against anything but living, related donor transplant programmes," said Dr. Yadav in an interview. "But in the past four to five years, I have started to think differently. I have worked very hard to try to set up cadaver transplant programmes, and



to get funds and government backing. But such programmes have no priority in our nation. Our priorities are immunisation and malnutrition programmes." Unless another source for organs can be found, says Dr. Yadav, transplant programmes will have to be abandoned in much of the developing world. One answer, he says, would be to set up a carefully monitored system whereby "healthy, suitable, voluntary donors" would give kidneys and other non-vital organs in exchange for payment.

"They would have to be compensated," said Dr. Yadav. "No-one gives a kidney for nothing. That compensation will come from the recipient family. If this could be done in an organised way, it could be the answer." Such a system would also ensure proper medical care and subsequent check-ups for the donor, a practice which is often ignored, said Dr. Yadav, who trained at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Australia. Now 53, he admits he may have unwittingly carried out kidney transplants using organs that had been sold instead of donated. "In my experience of 20 trans-

plants, I may have been duped at least six times," he said. "They may say 'this is my brother or my uncle,' but I have no means as a surgeon of identifying them and confirming what they say is true."

In the context of the developing world, maintains Dr. Yadav, ethics take on a different significance. "What if, on the one hand, you have a chap who has two sisters to marry and a house to build, and so is in dire need of money, while on the other hand you have a fellow who is dying of kidney disease?" asked the Indian surgeon.

The incidence of renal disease is the same in the developing world as in the Western world, and people are aware of the good results that can be obtained with renal transplants, he added. "What choice does the patient have? Dialysis is not available, as it is in the U.S. or other Western countries. There are no cadaver donors available. And if there is no-one able or willing to give him a kidney, what should a patient do? I think no ethics in the world will condemn him to die" — World News Link.

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Green tea may protect smokers from lung cancer

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Japanese preference for green tea may explain why Japanese men can smoke more than American men but still have lower rates of lung cancer, researchers said Monday.

The researchers found that consumption of green tea cut the lung cancer rate by 45 per cent in mice exposed to one of the most potent cancer-causing agents in cigarette smoke.

Other studies in animals suggested that drinking green tea could cut the rates of stomach and liver cancer, researchers reported at a national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

But the evidence is far too preliminary for researchers to recommend that people begin drinking green tea, said Allan H. Conney, director of the Laboratory for Cancer Research at Rutgers Uni-

versity in New Jersey. "It's still too early to say what the significance of this is for humans," said Dr. Conney, who is studying how green tea and other foods affect cancer rates in animals. "My opinion is we should not ingest large amounts of green tea."

Fung-Lung Chung of the American Health Foundation in New York agreed that more research had to be done to confirm the cancer-preventive effect of green tea, but he added that one or two cups a day "wouldn't do any harm."

A researcher from the National Cancer Centre Research Institute in Tokyo was more sanguine about the use of green tea.

"We would like to think drinking green tea may be one of the most practical cancer preventions at the moment," Hirota Fujiki said.

Green tea is made from the same plant as the black tea

commonly consumed in Western countries, Dr. Conney said. But green tea undergoes less processing. Light processing converts it into Chinese oolong tea, and more extensive processing produces black tea, Dr. Conney said.

Dr. Conney has shown that green tea can slow the formation of skin cancer tumours in mice exposed to harmful ultraviolet radiation. In other experiments, it also inhibited the formation of stomach and lung cancer tumours in mice, he said.

Dr. Fujiki said that population studies have shown reduced cancer rates in the Shizuoka Prefecture of central Japan, where green tea is produced and people drink far higher amounts than do other Japanese.

Dr. Chung noted that lung cancer mortality in Japan is much lower than in the United States, although the average consumption of cigarettes among males in

Japan is considerably higher. Green tea is one of several factors that might explain that, he said.

To explore the question, Dr. Chung exposed mice to a substance found in cigarette smoke called NNK, one of the class of cancer-causing agents called Nitrosamines. NNK may be the most potent cancer-causing agent in cigarette smoke, Dr. Chung said.

Mice exposed to NNK three times a week for 10 weeks developed an average of 22.5 lung tumours each. Mice that were given the same exposure to NNK and also given green tea developed 12.2 tumours each, a reduction of 45 per cent.

Dr. Chung said mice developed an average of 16.1 tumours, for a 30 per cent reduction, when exposed only to the active ingredient in green tea, a substance called EGCG, or Epigallocatechin Gallate.

Gene-altered farm animals make human proteins in milk

BOSTON (AP) — Gene splicers have created barnyard animals that make large quantities of medicine in their milk, taking a big step toward the creation of a new branch of agriculture — "Pharming."

The scientists already have transferred human genes into goats and sheep, turning these animals into pharmaceutical factories. And they are close to doing the same with ultimate barnyard milk maker, the cow.

Genetic engineers now routinely shift human genes into bacteria, yeast and tissue cultures so they will produce usable quantities of otherwise rare human proteins for treating disease. The goal is to do the same with much larger creatures capable of churning out vastly greater amounts.

"We are very close" to having commercially usefull quantities, said Dr. Vernon G. Pursel, a research physiologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. "We may be there."

For instance, a genetically

modified sheep in Scotland produced up to 2 ounces a day of a human protein used to treat a form of emphysema. This is four months' supply for one patient.

Three reports on the creation of so-called transgenic animals are being published in the Sept. 1 issue of the journal *Bio-technology*, released Monday.

The first transgenic animals to make foreign proteins in their milk were mice created by scientists four years ago. Researchers have also designed other gene-altered farm animals, including cattle, but the goal has been to change the size and characteristics of the animals, not produce human proteins in milk.

Dr. Pursel, who experiments with transgenic pigs, said the latest reports "may be significant advances," but "there are other big hurdles" besides boosting production.

Among them are efficiently separating the proteins from the milk, making sure they are pure and testing them to see how they com-

pare to genuine human proteins.

He and others predicted it could take five to 10 years to get animal-made proteins onto the market.

In one of the new reports, researchers from Tufts University Veterinary School in Grafton and Genzyme Corp. of Cambridge described the first successful creation of transgenic goats that produce a human protein in their milk.

Their first female produced milk with tissue plasminogen activator, or TPA, a protein widely used to treat heart attacks. But the amounts of TPA were tiny — about three milligrammes in each litre of milk.

Experts generally agree that transgenic animals must make one gramme or more of human protein per litre to compete economically with other gene-splicing techniques.

Dr. Karl M. Ebert, director of experimental biotechnology at the veterinary school, said the researchers have since produced a goat that makes three grammes of

TPA per litre. In another article in the journal, Dutch researchers from the University of Leiden and Gene Pharming Europe said they had produced the first transgenic dairy cattle intended to produce milk with human lactoferrin, an iron-binding protein. Their first animal was a bull, so it could not manufacture the protein.

A commentary in the journal described their gene splicing technique for cows as "a dramatic breakthrough in enlarging the transgenic pharm-yard."

Another team, from Pharmaceutical Proteins Ltd. and the AFRC Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research in Edinburgh, produced three sheep that made human Alpha-1-Antitrypsin in their milk. This enzyme is used to prevent life-threatening emphysema in people who cannot make the substance on their own.

One of the animals made up to 70 grammes of the protein a day. The protein is now derived commercially from human blood.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED

UNRWA confident of solution

(Continued from page 1)

for services and that UNRWA had admitted 5,000 additional ex-Kuwait children in its schools in Jordan and was offering health services to many returnees regardless whether they were registered with UNRWA or not.

"We have requested food and cash aid" from donor countries," Mr. Turkmen said. "We are in close cooperation with Jordanian authorities," he added. Appeals will be sent soon to donor countries explaining the new situation and requesting assistance," he said.

So far, Austria has donated \$500,000 and Canada and Germany have offered help. "At the moment however, we have no specific aid for the returnees except for classrooms and schools. But we are in constant contact with donor countries in case an emergency situation sets in," Mr. Turkmen said.

UNRWA does not discriminate between registered or non-registered refugees, Mr. Turkmen said. He said the number of non-registered refugees who require help was not known.

According to the UNRWA director general in Jordan, Frank de Jonge, "We have not differentiated between them (the registered and non-registered) but our first im-

pression is that most children are registered refugees."

Mr. De Jonge told the press conference that close to 90 per cent of the people who came to Jordan are registered with the U.N. agency. "We will know the exact figures soon," he said.

"If a non-registered child comes to us for assistance, we will not turn them back," Mr. De Jonge said.

Over the last year, UNRWA has increased its aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including about 40,000 tonnes of food, according to Mr. Turkmen. UNRWA also operated clinics on a 24-hour basis, legal assistance and "much more," he said.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Turkmen met with Prime Minister Taher Masi to discuss ways of improving the agency's role and involving international charity organisations in helping Jordan handle the present situation.

Also discussed was how to relieve the hardship of the Palestinians and ways of extending help to them and medium and long-term solutions.

Mr. Turkmen said the hardships created urgent needs to provide the Palestinians with food and medicine.

Mr. Turkmen, who was expected to leave Thursday, will be coming back to Jordan at the end of the month.

Gorbachev advances bid to shift power

(Continued from page 1)

he said.

The two votes were important procedural tests of support for the proposal by Mr. Gorbachev and leaders of 10 of the 15 republics to turn over most of the central government's remaining power to the republics and create an interim government during the transition to the new confederation.

The plan also urges all republics, regardless of their political ties to the Kremlin, to participate in an economic agreement.

They also approved motions to adjourn for the day, and had delegations from each republic work on the drafts and submit proposals to an editorial commission by Wednesday night.

The commission was directed to work through the night to consider the various proposals and resubmit the drafts by Thursday morning, when the session will reconvene to consider them.

The resolution passed in principle calls for a treaty as soon as

possible between republics who wish to create a "union of sovereign states, in which each of them can independently determine the form of its participation in the union."

But it also says that republics that do not want to enter the new union should negotiate with the USSR "to decide the whole complex of questions linked to separation."

Latvian deputy Yuri Boyars said his republic did not object to negotiations with Moscow. "This is what we have been requesting. This is the civilised way to go about it," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev also agreed to grant independence to the Baltic republics, officials said, 51 years after the states were annexed in a pact with Nazi Germany.

Officials said Mr. Gorbachev would issue decrees on independence for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

About 40 nations, including the United States, already have recognised the Baltics as sovereign nations.

PNC session delayed again

(Continued from page 1)

muniqué, published in Algerian newspapers.

But the PFLP affirmed its commitment to "Palestinian unity and to the PLO" and urged "the reorganisation and reinforcement of Palestinian ranks based on the revision of revolutionary politics through democratic reform of PLO institutions and organs."

The group is seeking wider representation of Palestinian interests with the PLO, which is dominated by Fateh.

The communiqué was issued by the PFLP office in Algiers.

Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Tuesday that the internal political upheaval in the Soviet Union would not

hamper the proposed peace conference.

"The Soviet leadership has stressed its adherence to continue its role in Middle East peace efforts despite the internal problems," Mr. Salman said when asked about Moscow's troubles in an interview carried on Paris-based Orient Radio.

Mr. Salman stressed that Syria "highly esteemed" the United States for urging a comprehensive peace on the basis of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and for this reason agreed to attend the U.S.-proposed peace conference.

Mr. Salman accused Israel of obstructing the peace conference "by building new settlements and expelling the Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories."

Appreciating what we have

By Guido Romero

RECENTLY, in an emotional outburst, I pointed out a number of incidents that aroused concern for the future of the Jordanian tourism industry as a whole. My concern does not stem from a purely professional interest alone, but also by the fact that I am convinced that Jordan's economic strength can, and should, lie in tourism.

The natural resources are there: the sea with the reef and the beaches, the sun, virtually all-year-round, archaeological sites of great importance, the excitement of the desert and the magic of Wadi Rum, not to mention the curiosity and curative powers of the Dead Sea. Human resources are abundant and constitute a tremendous power just waiting to be harnessed and directed to become the driving force behind socio-economic development. Politically, Jordan represents a champion of stability and freedom of the individual when due consideration is given to the realities of the Middle East.

Really, we almost have it all, but do we appreciate it? Let's start by looking at human resources, the main asset of an organisation.

It seems to me that, hotel and restaurant staff in Jordan have a very low opinion of themselves and therefore are psychologically handicapped in carrying out their jobs. Employees feel they have no responsibility and few prospects and that they are treated with little respect by both managers and customers alike. Staff do not value product knowledge or speed of service, and end up annoying their customers even though they do not intend to do so. To the question "What is good service?", both staff and managers seem to agree on "politeness" as an answer. Staff do not realise that even if they themselves are polite, they may still provoke customer irritation, which they interpret as rudeness, because they are slow, inefficient or not able to answer customers' inquiries.

Most often, this is the result of lack of emphasis, on behalf of management, on these spe-

cific issues. It is easier for managers to busy themselves with balancing the till at the end of the day than actually forming and informing their staff to enable them to interact efficiently with guests and/or staff from parallel departments. Sometimes, and this is more serious, managers voluntarily withhold training and information from their subordinates, fearing that they will eventually take over. In the first instance, the situation can be redressed simply by coaching managers on how to communicate their knowledge to their subordinates, and how to hold effective training sessions. It is something to possess the know-how, but it is more difficult to be able to pass it on effectively. In the second instance, things may be somewhat more delicate. Usually these are lazy people with a deep knowledge of the G.M.'s work schedule. They are always on duty when the G.M. is, therefore obtaining a maximum of exposure, and never miss a chance to "fill-in" in detail on how productive they have been, how long it kept them away from their families and what difficulties they had to overcome. These individuals tend to get credit also for things they have not done. They usually have no interest in furthering their own skills and work against the principals of team-work. Their devious manner makes it difficult to

spot these elements. Fortunately this breed of managers is rare and we can turn our attention to working with honest people whose motivation and curiosity can be stimulated quite easily.

Improving staff performance may not be easy. A possible solution could be improving the self-image of employees and increasing their pride, by any means available. It is also important to create between management and subordinates an atmosphere of cooperation and understanding of each other's positions within the organisation.

Information sharing is paramount to team-work. It provides staff with the basic tools to interact with customers and fellow workers, builds responsibility and confidence, therefore, lowering turnover. Confidence is an essential trait in carrying out any job and it can only be achieved through practice. Practice, in turn, is achieved through training in a controlled environment where an employee has time to formulate an adequate response to a fictitious situation (role play). In a further development the same response may be applied successfully, with slight variations, in a real life situation.

Top management and owners may argue that training is a luxury that only five-star hotels or international organisations could afford. "It is expensive

and time-consuming," is their favourite argument. But, suppose that evidence of an ongoing training and development programme was required for businesses to attain a certain rating within the industry. Would this make things any easier for entrepreneurs who tend to drag their feet in improving quality?

On a different level, but always within the context of improving service quality and strengthening Jordan's image as a leader in the field, there is another piece of infrastructure that we seem to have forgotten about: The Hotel Training School located near the Fifth Circle. All this school seems to do, is turn out people who are randomly assigned to various hotels and restaurants around town for "training." More often than not, the trainees are used as a source of cheap labour to improve "bottom lines" on profit & loss statements of the establishment they have been assigned to.

There does not seem to be a programme in place whereby the school monitors these students' performance, progress or position effectively. I have known a trainee to have been assigned to the room service department, in one of Amman hotels, for at least two consecutive years. This future employee has never had a glimpse at the reception, reservations, marketing, kitchen or any other department in the hotel

but room service. How can this justify hiring a hotel management graduate, who expects to be paid more, instead of someone with minimal experience?

Why shouldn't the Hotel Association, with the Restaurant Association, RJ, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Education, all get together and establish a fund for reviving the Amman Hotel Training School and provide it with academic and professional advice? Why not allocate a portion of government funds to this end? Why not institute a programme whereby the trainee is monitored from the time he/she leaves the school for training to the time he/she gets back.

Possibly, we could aim at becoming the Middle East centre for hotel and tourism management.

It is time to come out of this lethargy and take a look at what the country has to offer and exploit it productively.

There is so much potential and it is immediately translat-

able in hard currency. We could make Jordan the country to visit in the Middle East, and a model for other neighbouring countries to emulate. Entrepreneurs must want to improve despite the absence of competition in some areas. It is a question of making it better for quality's sake. Improve the image of your employees, and the standard of your operation will increase accordingly.

We should also take advantage of the fact that today we are experiencing an employer's market, one can pick and choose the best men for the job. Do not hesitate to stimulate staff's curiosity, motivation and pride. Finally, some food for thought. Let's give some consideration to how government regulations, or de-regulation, could be formulated and applied to improve the standard of service.

The writer is a graduate of hotel management. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.



Aqaba's golden beaches and wide range of entertainment possibilities are great assets for the tourism industry. But is it enough to attract customers and make them feel welcome?

American priest in Soviet far east

By Julia Rubin
The Associated Press

MAGADAN, USSR — Residents of this Siberian city, built in Josef Stalin's reign without churches, temples or mosques, heard an unusual advertisement on the radio this summer.

It encouraged listeners to get in touch with the Rev. Austin Mohrbacher if they were curious about God and learning to pray.

"I was saying I was here if anyone wanted to come talk to me, receive any of the Sacraments, anything — what hours I'm available," said Rev. Mohrbacher, a Roman Catholic priest who arrived in Magadan by way of Alaska.

In May, Rev. Mohrbacher gave up his parish in Rocking, N.J., and moved to Magadan for the Archdiocese of Anchorage, which is creating an ecumenical centre of religion and culture in a

vacant lot near downtown.

Plans have been drawn and a deal made with the regional government, but no one knows when work will begin on the modern wood-and-glass building in a city of crumbling apartment blocks on the sea of Okhotsk.

Rev. Mohrbacher isn't waiting. "Many people here want to learn, to talk about very fundamental ideas of God, whatever their religion," he said at the home of one of his students, where he is staying until he can get his own apartment.

"The people who came to me for the sacraments, well, they just really weren't prepared," said Rev. Mohrbacher, who speaks Russian. "I had to teach them who God was, first."

Pre-revolutionary religious fervor is emerging in much of the Soviet Union, but this fog-shrouded city of 150,000 people in the northeast corner of the

Soviet Union has no such religious tradition.

Magadan was built by slave laborers as a gateway to concentration camps. It was populated from the beginning by exiles and immigrants from elsewhere in the country.

Even today, residents tend to be young, lured to Magadan's harsh climate by high hardship salaries and visions of opportunity in its mines and other resource industries.

The city does have a church now — a house converted by Peotocostals for use in regular services. Seventh-Day Adventists also hold services in Magadan.

Not until last spring did a Russian Orthodox bishop arrive in Magadan, and construction of an Orthodox church is stalled. The city has few Jews or Muslims.

Archbishop Francis Hurley of Anchorage said he did not know how many people with Catholic

backgrounds lived in the region.

Catholicism is the second-largest Christian denomination in the Soviet Union, but a distant second to Russian Orthodoxy. Most Catholics are in Western republics like the Ukraine, which is the source of the most recent immigration to Magadan.

Hurley said he was the nearest Catholic bishop to Magadan, with the next-closest in Novosibirsk, nearly 3,200 kilometres to the west.

As the archbishop sees it, lack of religious traditions means people interested in God may feel especially lost in Magadan, but also especially free to learn.

"We have to isolate our situation in Magadan from the situation in western Russia, with its political, religious and ethnic history," Archbishop Hurley said. "We don't have the same baggage."

He said the Ecumenical centre's purpose is to teach people about a variety of faiths and cultures. He and Rev. Mohrbacher have been meeting with Russian Orthodox leaders, trying to win their support for the project.

Negotiations and discussions move slowly in Magadan, he said, and development of the Ecumenical centre is no exception.

Rev. Mohrbacher got about two dozen calls after his radio ad and has presided over several baptisms and funerals, in addition to study sessions. He has written a play about basic Bible lessons and recently cast it with members of the community.

The priest acknowledges that many people come to him more out of curiosity than faith.

One is Klavdia Benner, a mathematics teacher who moved to Magadan a few years ago from Kazakhstan. She is of the Soviet Union's German minority and described her parents as Lutherans who were afraid to attend church.

Ms. Benner, 41, was baptised secretly, but grew up without religious training. She began attending Pentecostal services when her 10-year-old daughter, Maria, involved with the movement and wanted to be baptised.

She continued attending services, up to three times a week, partly because she believes in a supreme being of some sort, but mainly because her grandparents were religious.

"I knew a little bit about it," she said. "I always remembered people who had faith. I'm just trying to learn more, looking around. I want to understand why people do this."

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 3/9/1991	Tokyo Close 4/9/1991
Sterling Pound	1.4945	1.4967
Deutsche Mark	1.7365	1.7353
Swiss Franc	1.5225	1.5200
French Franc	5.9005	5.8965
Japanese Yen	135.85	135.85
European Currency Unit	1.7184	1.7184

USD Per STD

European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.68	5.93
Sterling Pound	10.75	10.50	10.37	10.43
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.06	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.00	7.93	7.81
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.51	9.43
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.16	6.81	6.62
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.75	9.75	9.81

Interbank bid rates for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Previous Month

4/9/1991

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

4/9/1991

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.689	.691
Sterling Pound	1.1660	1.1718
Deutsche Mark	.3964	.3984
Swiss Franc	.4516	.4539
French Franc	.1166	.1172
Japanese Yen	.5059	.5084
Dutch Guilder	.3519	.3537
Swedish Krona	.1092	.1097
Italian Lira	.0532	.0535
Belgian Franc	.01922	.01932

Other Currencies

4/9/1991

Currency	Buy	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7800	1.7850
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1834	.1841
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1864	.1880
Egyptian Pound	.2100	.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7550
UAE Dirham	.1864	.1880
Greek Drachma	.3500	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4250	1.4550

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	2/9/1991 Close	3/9/1991 Close
All-Share	107.55	107.61
Banking Sector	100.94	100.93
Insurance Sector	117.32	117.12
Industry Sector	114.05	114.34
Services Sector	129.49	128.86

December 31, 1990 - 100

Britain lowers interest rates again

LONDON (R) — Britain's Conservative government Wednesday added fuel to speculation that it might be planning an early general election when it cut interest rates to aid recovery from deep economic recession.

The Bank of England (central bank) cut its money market dealing rate to 10.5 per cent from 11 per cent, a signal to commercial banks to cut base lending rates to that level. They quickly did so. Dealers said the rate suggested that Prime Minister John Major plans a November election — he need not call one before July — and that he could win it on the back of an economy which now seems to be rebounding from the worst recession in a decade.

Labour said the government was cutting rates to keep its options open for a "cut-and-run" election on Nov. 7.

But the treasury insisted: "An interest rate cut was the right and prudent decision to make. We will not get involved in any political speculation."

The economy plunged into recession, threatening the Conservatives' electoral prospects, after interest rates were lifted to 15 per cent in 1989.

Australia cuts interest rates in bid to survive

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's Labour government cut interest rates and reassessed its health policy Tuesday in what was seen as an attempt to ensure its political survival.

Rocked by recession and instability, the government, in power since 1983, has been floundering in recent months.

It trails the conservatives by about 16 per cent in opinion polls and Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who beat off a challenge by former treasurer Paul Keating in June, has been harassed by disgruntled Keating supporters in his government.

Economists and political commentators said Mr. Hawke, who must go to the polls by May 1993, must soon come up with a policy to break the political and economic stalemate.

There was widespread belief that the tide could be turned by Tuesday's surprise one-two punch to cut official interest rates by one point to 9.5 per cent and reexamine health charges imposed in the Aug. 20 budget.

"This has taken the sting out of Keating and could subvert the leadership debate," said economist Phil O'Sullivan of brokerage firm BZW Australia.

Australia's major banks said they were now considering dropping their politically-sensitive home loan rates, most of which are around 14 per cent for new borrowers.

New Treasurer John Kerin said the rate cut would boost the economy but, in his usual style, was cautious, telling parliament recovery from recession would still be moderate.

The markets had been lulled into thinking a rate cut was some way off by Mr. Kerin's cautious comments on inflation.

Economic analysts said the apparent change of mind was prompted largely by the need to take the heat off Mr. Hawke, even though party sources say he still has majority party support to gain beat off Mr. Keating, now a parliamentary backbencher.

Labour's hope is that the interest rate cut will boost Mr. Hawke's public image and spur business investment to check unemployment, which stood at a seasonally-adjusted 9.8 per cent at end-July.

"I think the motivation for the timing of the easing is political," said Bank of America economist Russell Maddox.

Israeli cabinet approves higher defence spending in \$33.9b budget for '92

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government rejected demands for defence cuts Wednesday and approved a deficit budget that could undermine Israel's call for \$10 billion in U.S.-guaranteed loans.

The 79.1 billion shekel (\$33.9 billion) 1992 budget approved in the early morning hours after a 17-hour cabinet debate raised spending on defence and left a deficit equal to 6.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

"This budget will raise doubts as to Israel's future ability to repay the large loans it is requesting and the repayment will fall on the American taxpayer in this case," the newspaper Haaretz warned following the cabinet vote.

Israel plans to ask Washington this week to guarantee \$10 billion in loans over the next five years to pay for absorbing Soviet immigrants. A U.S. guarantee to pay if Israel defaults would sharply reduce the interest rate.

"The (Israeli) treasury people are making a great effort to transmit the message that the 1992 budget has too high a deficit, is too inflationary and there is no indication of reducing government involvement in the economy," Haaretz said.

Although U.S. anger over Israel's drive to settle Jews in the occupied Arab lands has

attracted the most attention, Washington has also been openly critical of the government's failure to move faster toward a full market economy.

U.S. officials have warned that Israel's chronic inflation, 21 per cent over the past year, and heavy government involvement in the economy are blocking growth needed to provide jobs for new immigrants.

Some 350,000 immigrants, most from the Soviet Union, have moved to Israel in the past two years. During the budget debate, the cabinet cut costs on immigration by arbitrarily reducing projected immigration for next year by 50,000 to 200,000.

The cabinet voted 11-6 to cut all budget items by three per cent except for defence, which had campaigned for an increase by warning of an Arab missile threat.

Instead of a proposed defence cut of a billion shekels (\$429 million), spending will rise 370 million shekels (\$158.6 million) in 1992 and the ministry can sign future contracts for another 250 million shekels (\$107.2 million).

Although the projected deficit for the budget starting next Jan. 1 would be cut to 6.3 per cent of GDP from 6.9 per cent in 1991, Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had urged cutting it to 5.5 per cent.

The budget also was drawn up on the assumption Washington would approve the loan guarantee, allowing Israel to borrow funds abroad to cover part of the deficit.

Mr. Mordechai had proposed shifting spending from defence to helping immigrants. That would have put defence into third place behind absorption costs but defence now remains firmly in second place. The largest cost is debt servicing, which takes up a third of government expenditure.

"The critical point is what government decisions will be regarding the deficit in the coming years," Jacob Frenkel, head of the central bank that had argued for a lower deficit, told Israel Radio.

"The finance minister intends to convene the ministerial committee on economic affairs and in that framework will propose that indeed there should be a decision for a staged reduction of the deficit in the coming years," he said.

The budget presented to cabinet Tuesday projected a deficit of 7.7 billion shekels (\$3.3 billion). When it emerged from the debate Wednesday the deficit had grown to 8.8 billion shekels (\$3.75 billion).

U.S. Exim Bank to guarantee \$178 million loan to Gulf Air

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — The Export and Import Bank of the United States (Exim) has agreed to guarantee a second \$178 million loan to Gulf Air for the purchase of three new Boeing 767 aircraft, the airline has said.

The 12-year loan, which will cover 85 per cent of the cost of the new aircraft, will be provided by the U.S. private Export Funding Corporation, a Gulf Air statement said.

Payments are due twice a year and the interest rate is fixed at 8.52 per cent, the statement said. The loan will be signed in New York this month.

A spokesman for the airline said the credit agreement was identical to one reached between Gulf Air and the Exim Bank last year for three other Boeing 767 aircraft.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6940/50	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1410/15	Canadian dollar
	1.7360/70	Deutschmarks
	1.9545/55	Dutch guilders
	1.5220/25	Swiss francs
	35.68/73	Belgian francs
	5.9000/50	French francs
	1294/1295	Italian lire
	135.85/95	Japanese yen
	6.3025/75	Swedish crowns
	6.7830/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.7020/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	348.70/349.10	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed easier on profit-taking and arbitrage unwinding following a four-day rising streak. The Nikkei ended down 67.11 at 22,402.69.

SYDNEY — Shares closed barely lower after a burst of enthusiasm caused by Tuesday's official interest rate cut petered out. The All Ordinaries closed 1.7 down at 1566.7.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended softer, dragged lower by sluggish sentiment and subdued trade. The Hang Seng Index closed down 18.62 at 4,006.45.

SINGAPORE — The market closed mixed in nervous trading on renewed rumours that Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong might soon resign. The Straits Times Index ended at 1,426.42, up 1.39.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered from an early slump to finish mixed in volatile trading ahead of end-account. The exchange index rebounded from a low of 1,739.15 to 1,762.62, but was still down 1.74 points from Tuesday's close.

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★ **SKYHIGH**

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

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To Be Opened Soon

Nabil Mashini Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

★ **RAINBOW**

Laila Elwi, Ahmad Budair Mamdouh Abdul Allm

In HUSH

(Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

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Nabil Mashini Theatre

RAINBOW

Laila Elwi, Ahmad Budair Mamdouh Abdul Allm

In HUSH

(Arabic)

14 reported killed in Yugoslav truce violation

BELGRADE (Agencies) — At least 14 people died in eastern Croatia Tuesday in the worst violation of a Yugoslav ceasefire sponsored by the European Community (EC), hospital officials said Wednesday.

Ten bodies were brought to a hospital in Osijek during the night. Four people, including a 13-year-old girl, were known to have been killed earlier in fighting which included a heavy mortar bombardment of the town centre.

Croatian security forces and the Yugoslav army blamed the other for the outbreak of violence in the town at the centre of an area of ethnic tension close to Croatia's border with its arch-rival Serbia.

At least two more people were killed in fresh incidents in the breakaway Yugoslav republic during the night, Croatian Radio said Wednesday.

The report said the mortarway between Zagreb and Belgrade was cut when Serbian guerrillas and army reservists launched a mortar attack on the village of Koprivnica.

Sporadic fighting continued despite a warning by Yugoslav President Stipe Mesić to the rival forces Tuesday that violations of the shaky ceasefire could have reverberations across Europe.

EC foreign ministers agreed in the Hague Tuesday to open a peace conference with the six Yugoslav republics Saturday.

But the new fighting set back

hopes of an end of the clashes involving Croatian forces, Serbian guerrillas and the Serbian-led Yugoslav army that have killed more than 300 people in Croatia since the republic declared independence on June 25.

"The fact that the (ceasefire) commitments have not been fulfilled, that new acts of destruction and ceasefire violations are being made... creates new dangers and risks in an already dangerous situation," Mr. Mesić said on state television.

"I call on all opposing sides and individuals to observe the provisions of the ceasefire agreement at once, unconditionally and without delay."

Mr. Mesić said the ceasefire violations called for unspecified sanctions but gave no details.

"The country is facing a great risk and an extremely dangerous risk which could affect all our citizens, all parts of Yugoslavia and even Europe," he said.

Under the ceasefire brokered by the EC, Croatian forces and units of the army are supposed to disengage and guerrilla units are to lay down their arms. But no mechanism for enforcing the truce has been put in place.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman complained in a letter to the EC Tuesday of "continued aggression" by army units and Serbian guerrillas in his republic.

Colonel-General Marko Nogošević, a member of the military supreme command, denied Mr. Tudjman's accusations and said

Croatian security forces had attacked army units first.

Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj told reporters in Zagreb: "The outlook for the ceasefire does not look terribly bright."

Meanwhile Serbs in the north-eastern corner of Croatia fired off machine guns Tuesday to celebrate its "liberation," claiming to have seized the area's last two Croat-held villages.

"We'll never be Croatia again," declared Zdravko Mrcina, an officer of a Serb civilian defence force in this town in Croatia's Baranja area. The region stretches south from the Hungarian border to Osijek, a Croatian stronghold 230 kilometres east of Zagreb, Croatia's capital.

Mesić and Bilje, the last Croatian strongholds in Baranja, fell into Serbian hands less than 30 hours after the European Community announced a new ceasefire agreement for Croatia, the Serbs said.

AP photographer Franz Pammer said he saw Yugoslav Air Force planes bomb Bilje, which is just outside Osijek, Tuesday.

Federal forces, whose obedience to central command has been questioned several times in recent weeks, have been widely accused of helping the Serb guerrillas in Croatia at the behest of neighbouring Serbia. Army commanders strongly deny this, saying their forces help keep warring sides apart and fire only



Serbian guerrillas take up positions to fight Croatian National Guards near the village of Borovo Selo in Croatia

when attacked.

Before the fighting that erupted after Croatia declared independence June 25, the 54,000 inhabitants of Baranja were approximately one-third Croat, one-third Serb and one-third ethnic Hungarian.

Most of the Croats fled deeper into Croatia and to neighbouring Hungary after the ethnic hostilities spread to the region about a month ago.

Some of the purely Croatian villages, like Mesić, Bilje and Brani Vrt, near Beli Manastir are now deserted. Serbs say the last Croatian defenders retreated to Osijek.

Several of the deserted houses

in the region bear pockmarks of bullets and grenades, the scars of the deep mutual fears that have erupted into ethnic violence.

In Bonn, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Wednesday Germany could recognise the breakaway republics of Slovenia and Croatia soon if fighting in Yugoslavia does not stop.

Stepping up Bonn's pressure on Belgrade, Mr. Genscher told parliament Tuesday that Germany would not stand by much longer as the Yugoslav army fought against the two republics.

In a warning to the Yugoslav army command, he said: "The hour of this recognition near with every shot your cannon and

tanks fire. We will not be able to stand by and watch any longer."

Mr. Genscher said he hoped a peace conference called by the European Community for next Saturday in the Hague could take place but added: "Whether it comes off depends on developments in these days."

He spoke in a foreign policy debate during which Chancellor Helmut Kohl had earlier renewed Bonn's threat to consider recognising Slovenia and Croatia but without the urgent note the foreign minister added.

Mr. Genscher held out the prospect of German economic aid for the two breakaway republics and trade sanctions against Belgrade.

De Klerk's party seeks to bypass majority rule

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (R) — President F.W. De Klerk's National Party (NP) proposed a blueprint for democracy Wednesday that would give blacks a vote for the first time but deny outright power to any one group.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), which after 80 years of struggle against white supremacy seeks simple majority rule based on one person, one vote, called the plan a "recipe for disaster."

Unveiling the blueprint at a special party congress, Mr. De Klerk rejected a British-style winner-takes-all electoral system.

"We propose a system of participatory democracy (in which) political power shall not be vested solely in the hands of any single individual, political party or group," he said. "We therefore proclaim our opposition to domination of any kind."

Mr. De Klerk stressed the proposed universal-franchise constitution was not final and that details would have to be thrashed out within the party and in negotiations with other groups, anticipated to begin next year.

But officials told reporters the NP was wedded to a system that ensured protection for minorities and ruled out the kind of unfettered central authority that whites have enjoyed for 300 years. The NP itself used its winner-takes-all power to introduce apartheid immediately after it assumed office in 1948.

The hiterto all-white NP, which opened its doors to other races last year, proposes a three-tiered government, resting on proportional representation, which spreads much power from the centre to the regions.

Parliament would consist of a first house, elected proportionally — each party receiving seats in accordance with its share of popular support — and a second house in which an equal number of seats would be allocated to each of nine geographical regions.

Every democratic party with an undefined "significant" support would be represented.

The second house would pass bills and have blocking powers. An unspecified "weighted majority" would be required to amend the constitution or pass laws relating to the interests of minorities and regions.

The constitution would bar an all-powerful state president in the present case — and replace him with a collective presidency, comprising the leaders of at least the three biggest parties in the first house, with a rotating chair. The presidency would appoint cabinet ministers.

Giving its reaction, the ANC urged the NP to withdraw the plan and said the constitutional provision compelling consensus was an approach that had caused conflict in Lebanon.

"It is regrettable to have to say that the NP proposals are a recipe for disaster, designed to deny a future South African government the power to truly liberate the country from the misery that apartheid has wrought," it said in a statement.

COLUMN

Surgeons sew back child's hand

MELBOURNE, Australia (R) — Australian surgeons sewed back a four-year-old boy's severed hand which was found lying in the mud after a car accident, a hospital spokesman said Wednesday. The child was in a stable condition after a nine-hour operation but it would be a week before the success of the surgery could be judged. "It looks promising. It's early days but we're hopeful," the spokesman told Reuters. The boy lost most of his left hand when he was thrown clear of a car which crashed in Melbourne's outer southern suburbs Tuesday. An ambulance driver who waited behind found the hand in mud after the car was moved, wrapped it in a towel and took it 70 kilometres to Melbourne's St. Vincent's Hospital where a team led by Professor Wayne Morrison performed the operation.

Vandals strip corpse of Akhromeyev

MOSCOW (R) — Vandals have dug up the freshly-buried corpse of Soviet Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev and stripped it of its military uniform, Russian Television has reported. Marshal Akhromeyev, former Soviet Armed Forces chief of staff and personal military advisor to President Mikhail Gorbachev, committed suicide after last month's failed bid to overthrow the Soviet government. His body was buried in Moscow's Trojekurovskoye Cemetery last week. The Vostok evening television news said the grave of another senior military officer, whom it named as Colonel-General Sredin, had been similarly abused. It did not say when the vandals struck. "Today it was established that from the tombs of Marshal Akhromeyev and Colonel-General Sredin the military uniforms in which they made their final journeys had been stolen," its reporter said.

U.N. plans more flagstuffs

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations is busy planning holes for new poles. With seven countries clamouring to join the world body, space is at a premium along the front of U.N. headquarters, where members' flags flutter from a long line of flagstuffs. The organisation, now with 159 countries, had anticipated the addition of four new members when the General Assembly session opens on Sept. 17. The Security Council last month approved applications from North and South Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. But Tuesday the three Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — also announced their intention of joining in time to take part in the forthcoming assembly.

Rock singer paroled from jail

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California (R) — Rock singer Ike Turner was released from prison Tuesday after serving more than two years of a four-year sentence for drunk driving and parole violation, his publicist said. The singer, half of the Ike and Tina Turner duo that had several chart-topping hits in the 1970s, will live with his daughter, Twanna Melby, in Vallejo, California, under the terms of his new parole, publicist Guy McLean said in Los Angeles. Turner was arrested in Hollywood for drunk driving. At his trial he was also found guilty of parole violation for an earlier drug conviction.

Japanese artist gives \$1m to fight AIDS

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese artist gave actress Elizabeth Taylor a \$1 million donation to help fund AIDS research. Hiro Yamagata, a Japanese artist who lives in Los Angeles, presented Taylor with the check and a portrait of the actress at a Tokyo hotel Monday. The portrait will be made into silk-screen prints to be sold worldwide for Taylor's... fund-raising campaign. Taylor, 59, who co-chairs the international programme of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, called for continued support in the fight against AIDS. "So long as AIDS exists, and so long as valiant warriors are fighting in the front lines to save lives, we cannot give up," she said. Taylor was scheduled to leave Tokyo Tuesday.

25 killed in U.S. plant fire

HAMLET, North Carolina (AP) — Fire engulfed a chicken processing plant Tuesday, creating an inferno in which panicked workers were trapped by blocked or locked doors, witnesses said. Authorities reported 25 people killed and 49 injured.

"They were screaming 'let me out,'" said passer-by Sam Breeden. "They were beating on the door."

Blackened footprints marked a door where workers tried to kick

their way out to escape the fire, which gutted the building's interior. Workers apparently did escape through that door.

A reporter found a padlock on a door marked "fire door — do not block."

Some victims' bodies were found at exits and others were found in a meat freezer, where they apparently had fled, Hamlet Fire Chief David Fueller said at a news conference. He wouldn't

confirm that the exit doors were locked.

The fireman found the body of his own father, a driver for a snack company who was stocking vending machines at the plant, said Joey Jernigan, a town councilman.

The fire started at about 1230 GMT at the Imperial Food Products plant, which makes chicken nuggets and marinated chicken breasts sold at fast-food restaurants and grocery stores.

Sihanouk suggests compromise on elections

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk Wednesday suggested a compromise on elections to remove the final big obstacle to a formal settlement to his country's 12-year war.

"We could have a combination of the two systems to please both sides," the former monarch and guerrilla leader told reporters before leaving for Peking.

The elections will be held once a peace agreement is signed and an international peacekeeping and supervisory force, known as the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, arrives.

The government in Phnom Penh wants a single-winner constituency system, while the guerrillas — in particular the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) faction — support a proportional representation system envisaged in a U.N. peace plan.

Prince Sihanouk, who has chaired recent peace talks, suggested adopting the system of constituency voting that Prime Minister Hun Sen wants and supplementing it by giving additional parliamentary seats to political parties that won many votes in the general election without gaining many seats.

Prince Sihanouk said the idea had been accepted by the guerrilla faction loyal to him and led by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Chinese guards jostle U.S. lawmakers in Peking square

PEKING (R) — Chinese security guards jostled three U.S. congressmen as they laid flowers in Peking's Tiananmen Square Wednesday in memory of pro-democracy protesters killed in June 1989, one of the three said.

"We wanted to express our admiration and respect for those who struggled for democracy in Tiananmen Square," John Miller, a Republican from Washington state, said by telephone.

Security guards rushed up to the congressmen and accompanying television reporters, briefly detaining the reporters and showing the congressmen.

"He half grabbed me and half slapped me and yelled at me in Chinese," Miller said.

Miller, Ben Jones, a Democrat from Georgia, and Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, took white roses to the monument to the People's Heroes in centre of the square, where student leaders of the pro-democracy movement made their headquarters.

"These three flowers symbolise liberty, justice and democracy," Mr. Jones said, standing in front of the monument.

"Those who died here on June 4, 1989 did not die in vain. They were martyrs to these principles we all hold dear," according to a television tape made by an American network.

China's hardline Communist leaders ordered troops backed by tanks to crush the student-led movement on June 4, 1989, killing hundreds if not thousands. The congressmen, in town to pressure China on human rights,

were allowed to drive off after the guards realised who they were.

But security men detained seven people working for American television networks ABC, CBS and CNN for about 90 minutes, CBS correspondent Bill Whitaker said by telephone.

The security officials returned the networks' tapes after examining them.

The U.S. congressional delegation which Chinese authorities barred from visiting imprisoned dissidents said Wednesday that China's human rights situation was worsening.

"Ultimately what we've seen is, in our opinion, a worsening of the human rights situation," Mr. Jones told reporters.

"We got the impression that pressures are growing worse on those with connection to the prisoners or dissidents," said Mr. Miller.

Pelosi said her group was refused permission to visit leading dissidents Wang Jintao and Chen Ziming.

Mr. Wang and Mr. Chen were both jailed for 13 years for allegedly organising the pro-democracy protests that were crushed in Tiananmen Square.

Ms. Pelosi said China might lose its preferential trade status next year amid growing congressional ire at its lack of progress on human rights.

"Complete revocation could carry. It's an election year," Ms. Pelosi said. "Who's going to defend the Chinese? Not even the president."

Director Frank Capra dies

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Director Frank Capra, who celebrated American life in more than a half century of filmmaking, died at his home in this desert resort town Tuesday. He was 94.

Mr. Capra, who was born in Palermo, Sicily, in 1897 and emigrated to the United States with his family when he was six, won three Academy Awards for directing, but was best known for a movie that failed to earn him an Oscar, the Christmas classic *It's A Wonderful Life*.

A family spokesman said Mr. Capra died in his sleep at his home in La Quinta, near Palm Springs, at 9.30 a.m. (1630 GMT).

He had been in frail health in recent years after suffering a series of strokes and was under 24-hour nursing care.

Jimmy Stewart, who starred in *It's A Wonderful Life*, said on learning of Mr. Capra's death: "Frank Capra will always have a very special place in my heart. I think this is true for the motion picture industry and true for the millions of people who saw his pictures."

"I will always be grateful to him for the wonderful and unflinching help he gave me as a motion picture actor."

The 83-year-old star has often said *It's A Wonderful Life* was his favourite movie.

Mr. Capra, who also worked with such legendary Hollywood figures as Cary Grant, Clark Gable, Claudette Colbert and Donna Reed, was described as the all-American film director, presenting the average man as average Americans liked to see themselves.

In *It Happened One Night*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Mr. Deeds Goes To Town*, and *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington* Mr. Capra stylishly presented heroes who were decent, brave, independent and principled.

One critic said his movies typified the "hope, vigour and individualism of the American spirit."

His Oscars for Best Director were won with *It Happened One Night*, *You Can't Take It With You*, and *Mr. Deeds Goes To Town*.

His film fables nearly always featured an idealistic bucking the odds and overcoming cynics.

Major expresses confidence about Hong Kong's future

HONG KONG (AP) — British Prime Minister John Major arrived here Wednesday proclaiming confidence that agreements he signed in Peking would allay fears in this nervous colony, the last jewel in London's colonial crown.

"We can reaffirm explicitly yet again that after 1997 Hong Kong will continue for at least 50 years the capitalist tradition that made it such a remarkable success," Mr. Major said after his plane touched down at Kai Tak International Airport.

Under a 1985 agreement, Britain hands over rule of Hong Kong to China in 1997. The prospect has made many Hong Kong residents nervous, particularly in light of Peking's brutal crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement.

Mr. Major came to Hong Kong following a controversial three-day visit in Peking, during which he and Premier Li Peng mixed sharp exchanges over human rights with agreements about the territory's future.

The two signed a memorandum of understanding on Hong Kong's new multibillion-dollar airport project.

"We have unlocked many of the things that may have caused a rupture of confidence in Hong Kong. There is no need for people to leave," Mr. Major said.

He then left to tour a camp for Vietnamese boat people. The prime minister returns to London Thursday.

Mr. Major was the first Western leader to visit Peking since the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in June 1989. His arrival in Hong Kong made him the first British prime minister to come to the territory in nine years.

Leaving China, Mr. Major told Mr. Li that his visit to Peking marked a new beginning in relations between the two countries.

Armenians are arming under Azeri shellfire

SHAUMYAN USSR (AP) — Besieged Armenians are arming rapidly under shellfire from Azerbaijani forces, fearful that the Soviet breakup is clearing the way for their historic foes to launch a war of ethnic annihilation.

"The Turk is capable of anything," Shahan Meghin, president of Shaumyan District, said Tuesday, likening the conflict with Azeri forces to the massacres of Armenians in Turkey in 1915-18.

He said 50 Armenians had been killed since May by Azerbaijani security units, backed by the Soviet Fourth Army. Soviet troops pulled back on Aug. 24, but Azerbaijani KGB special forces joined in with sophisticated weaponry, he said.

Shaumyan, an enclave of eight Armenian villages in Azerbaijan, declared Monday that it was attaching itself to the adjacent Armenian region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which proclaimed itself an independent Soviet Republic.

Local leaders said Nagorno-Karabakh might seek to join the Russian republic as protection against Azerbaijanis who control a corridor separating their mountainous region from nearby Armenia.

The conflict has raised fears of similar clashes elsewhere as ethnic groups held in check by a firm Soviet hand seek to settle old claims with bloodshed.

Since 1988, 400 Armenians have been killed in Azerbaijan, according to Prime Minister Vazgen Manukyan. Reliable independent estimates say the figure may be in the thousands.

Shaumyan, 450 square kilometres with a population of 16,000, has been cut off since 1988, supplied only by intermittent helicopters from Yerevan, capital of Armenia. The aircraft must hug the mountain ridges to elude gunfire.

After Soviet and Azerbaijani troops forcibly deported thousands of Armenians in the outlying hamlets of Shaumyan earlier this year, a local militia dug in to fight back. Militiamen say the Republic of Armenia offers assistance, but they won't discuss details.

Almost daily, fresh Armenian paramilitary troops arrive with rag-tag assortments of arms and artillery pieces, raising the tension.

"This is intellectual as well as physical genocide," said Larisa Agabadian, chief of the district's sparsely equipped hospital. "Our children will grow up physically and mentally stunted."

She said many children showed

signs of severe neurosis — slow speech, nightmares and learning disabilities — because of deportations, artillery shelling and machine-gun attacks.

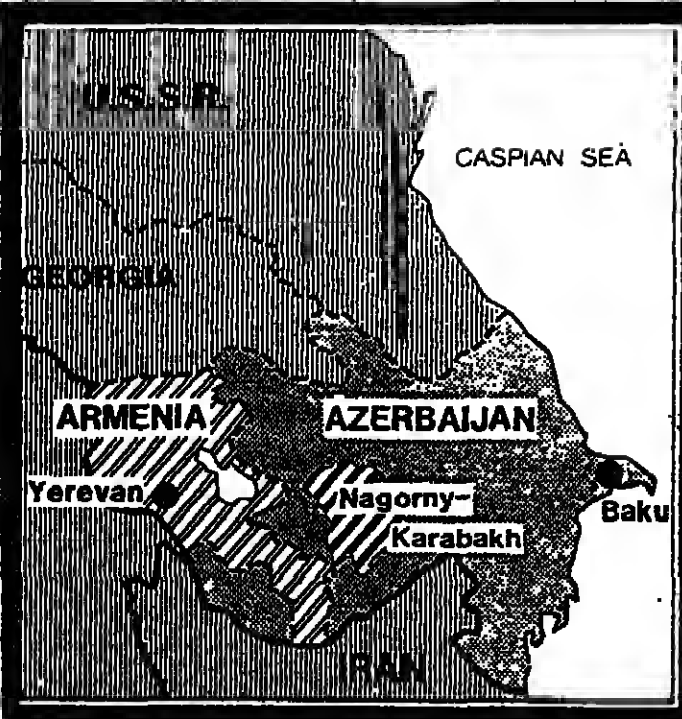
Anatoly Shahad, a Russian Republic lawmaker, negotiated a tentative ceasefire in some sectors last week. But he said: "I'm afraid we may face a new war. Things look very bad. Because Azerbaijan has declared itself independent, it recognises Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan, which leaves it alone and quite helpless."

Although Soviet troops have taken part in deportations, Mr. Shahad said, they were also able to curb excesses by Azerbaijani troops. That may no longer be the case, he said.

Mr. Shahad asked Azerbaijani commanders at the Shaumyan border if they would speak with an Associated Press reporter, but they declined.

Witness after witness in Shaumyan told of beatings, rapes and looting as Azerbaijani units backed by Soviet troops drove Armenians from their villages.

David Leopold, an American lawyer from Cleveland who has visited the region three times, blamed atrocities on the "stone-age mentality" of Azerbaijani Interior Ministry commandos, the Omon.



said, Soviet armoured vehicles ringed the village and Azerbaijani troops lined up 20 trucks behind them. When helicopters roared overhead, all but one of the 360 inhabitants fled to the forest.

The stranger was identified as Mnatsak Minasian, a man in his 90s. "With binoculars, we saw Omon troops beat him repeatedly," said village chief Gehan Muradin. "Finally, they hanged him from a tree."

Outside the school, 9-year-old Vlad Alexanian spoke with the difficult speech described by Dr. Agabadian. Words came haltingly and he stared blankly.

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